DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

South Africa survive Afghan thriller

Proteas hold their nerve to win via second Super Over

Page 15

US waters down India trade deal terms

Removes key references, including pulses, energy and digital taxes

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Trump administration on Wednesday revised the fact sheet on the India-US trade deal, amending some key terms that had raised concerns in New Delhi.

In the amended document, the White House has dropped a mention of 'certain pulses' as one of the trade items on which the US claimed India would reduce import tariffs, as per the interim pact between the two countries.

The altered fact sheet also replaces the word 'commitment' with 'intends to' in reference to the $500 billion in energy purchases from the US that New Delhi plans to make over five years.

The US has also deleted a line on the removal of 'digital services taxes' from the earlier version of the fact sheet uploaded on the White House website on Tuesday.

The updated text has been watered down to, "India committed to negotiate a robust set of bilateral digital trade rules that address discriminatory or burdensome practices and other barriers to digital trade."

NEW DOCUMENT

- White House drops mention of 'certain pulses' as one of the trade items on which the US claimed India would reduce import tariffs
- Deletes a line on the removal of 'digital services taxes' from the earlier fact sheet
- India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products

As per the World Trade Organization (WTO) norms, trans-border e-commerce transactions like e-books and software do not attract customs duties.

Many countries, including India, have complained of revenue loss due to these practices as they have been seeking to tax such electronic transmissions.

▸ Fact sheet, Page 3A

Quickly

Two children run over by school bus

Two children aged four and two were killed on the spot after a private school bus hit a scooter near the police quarters in RK Hedge Nagar on Wednesday. A police constable who was the father of one child and uncle of another suffered minor injuries in the accident. The deceased kids have been identified as Bhanu (4) and Varsha (2). The crash occurred at 8.15 am when the bus hit the two-wheeler while taking a turn.

Details on Page 2

Planning panel moots reforms

Establishing a comprehensive state gender policy, setting up a transgender development board, and removing contract labour are among the recommendations for the upcoming 2026-27 Budget by a sub-committee working under the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission.

Details on Page 3B

Vande Mataram to be sung in full: MHA

The Union Home Ministry has directed that all six stanzas of the National Song Vande Mataram, written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, shall be sung first when the National Song and National Anthem Jan Gana Man are to be played together.

Details on Page 7

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sri Lanka vs Oman	@11am
Italy vs Nepal	@3pm
India vs Namibia	@7pm

Minister: Kin denying women land share

Owners of 50L plots dead; govt on drive to trace heirs

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The government's drive to transfer farmland ownership from dead persons to their legal heirs has found that men are denying their female family members a share in inheritable assets, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said.

Karnataka has 4.1 crore agricultural landholdings. After Gowda's department started seeding these landholdings with Aadhaar, it was discovered that owners of 49.06 lakh plots were dead and records were not updated in the name of their legal heirs, using a process known as *pouti khata*.

Gowda has ordered a suo motu drive, asking all village administrative officers (VAO) to go door-to-door and find the legal heirs.

"Despite lack of cooperation from people, we managed to bring legal heirs into ownership of about 12 lakh lands. Some are not cooperating because they don't want to give a share to the female member of the family," Gowda told *DH*.

The law recognises daughters -- irrespective of their marital status -- as coparceners, giving them equal inheritance rights. A woman can surrender her share through a relinquishment deed.

"If there is a relinquishment deed or a partition deed, we will bring it on record. But they (people) don't want to legally get it done. At the same time, they also don't want us to enter the female member of the family into records," Gowda said.

▸ Farmland, Page 3A

'Unified land management system likely', Page 3A

PROPERTY RIGHTS

- Drive was initiated after finding that 49.06 lakh land parcels were in dead persons' name, and their legal heirs hadn't got records updated
- Some are not cooperating because they don't want to give a share to the female member of the family, says minister
- No other Indian state has taken up the exercise of estimating the nature of agricultural landholdings, says Krishna Byre Gowda

SC allows appeals in 530 land acquisition disputes

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has allowed 530 appeals filed by Karnataka and other states against high court orders dismissing appeals filed against 'excessive' compensation granted to landowners for acquisition of lands under Section 74 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

According to Karnataka government officials, these appeals were related to major land acquisition projects such as the Upper Krishna Basin Project, Singatalur Lift Irrigation Project, and state highway projects, among other project.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma directed the high courts to avoid a pedantic approach as against a pragmatic one in dealing with the applications seeking condonation of delay in such matters. Attorney General R Venkataramani assisted in the judgment.

▸ Land disputes, Page 3A

Hope, fear ahead of B'desh polls today

SMITA SHARMA
DHAKA

There is hardly any traffic on the otherwise notoriously congested roads of Dhaka. Young boys play cricket on the streets as most shops and offices are shut ahead of the Thursday polling to elect a new government in India's eastern neighbor.

Campaign posters and festoons adorn every nook and corner, promising a new Bangladesh. Graffiti condemning the ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is a reminder of the the 2024 Zen-G uprising last year that swept away the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government, forcing the former PM into exile.

Thirteen crore registered voters will elect 299 lawmakers of the 300 parliamentary seats. The election results, expected to pour in by Thursday night, will decide the next prime minister. People will also vote on a referendum seeking political and constitutional reforms. Over nine lakh security forces have been deployed to ensure free and fair polls in a country that has been reporting a steady rise in violent incidents against its minorities.

At the Rabindra Sarovar Park, close to the house of the first prime minister, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, that was gutted in last year's protests, young boys are discussing the country's politics over cups of bhaanrer cha (tea in a handleless clay cup). It is the quintessential adda that defines the spirit of Bengalis across borders, regardless of their religion.

There is a cautious optimism in the air.

▸ B'desh polls, Page 3A

Ballot boxes being carried to a voting centre in Dhaka on Wednesday. REUTERS

Man murders parents in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS: A retired Indian Navy captain and his wife were murdered in Bengaluru on Wednesday, allegedly by their own son over taunts about his unemployment. Around 8.30 am, morning walkers in Vignannagar saw the suspect, Rohan Chandra Bhat (33), running out of the family's villa in blood-stained clothes and heard his parents' screams.

Local residents rushed into the home and called emergency services. Rohan's parents — Naveen Chandra Bhat (60), a retired Navy Captain, and Dr Shyamala Bhat (55), a dentist — were rushed to Manipal Hospitals, where doctors declared them brought dead.

Page 2

Rahul attacks govt over trade deal

Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday mounted a trenchant critique of the India-US interim trade deal, dubbing it a 'wholesale surrender' by the government. He accused the government of 'surrendering' the interests of Indian farmers, the textile industry, and the energy sector.

P7

9 killed in Canada school shooting

TORONTO, AFP: A shooter killed nine people and wounded dozens more at a secondary school and a residence in a remote part of western Canada on Tuesday, authorities said, in one of the deadliest mass shootings in the country's history. The suspect, described by the police in an initial emergency alert as a "female in a dress with brown hair," was found dead with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, officials said.

Twenty seven people were wounded, the police said.

Details on Page 12

POOR SHOW

Power firm ratings: Bescom 51 out of 54

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bescom was ranked 51st among 54 power distribution companies assessed across the country by the Ministry of Power. According to the 14th annual integrated rating and ranking report released by the ministry recently, Bescom received a C- rating and a red card for its poor performance on multiple parameters.

According to the findings of the report, Bescom has an accumulated loss of Rs 13,819 crore and standing loans of Rs 22,611 crore. In FY 2025 alone, the losses stood at 5,476 crore.

The exercise assessed the power utility's performance on 15 base parameters including the collection efficiency, billing efficiency and transmission losses, and nine disincentives like availability of audit accounts and the auditor's adverse opinion.

Bescom scored 12.44 out of 100 and the report noted that the power utility's performance had slipped significantly compared to the 13th annual integrated rating and ranking report when it had scored 40.43 out of 100 and stood at the 34th rank with a grade of B-.

A red card was issued because of the adverse opinion of the auditor.

Surprisingly, none of Karnataka's Escoms made it to the top 10 or top 20.

▸ Bescom, Page 3A

ESCOM RANKINGS

- 26/54 Mescom
- 44/54 Chescom
- 47/54 Hescom
- 48/54 Gescom
- 51/54 Bescom

Trade union strike today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Opposing the four labour codes and demanding the reinstatement of MGNREGA, trade unions have called for a nationwide strike on February 12. Daily life and public transport are expected to remain largely unaffected. However, production in industrial units will come to a halt. Workers in all industrial areas—Bidadi, Kumbalgodu, Jigani, Bommasandra, Narasapura, Peenya, Vemgal, Dobbspet, Electronics City and Whitefield — will abstain from work.

Page 2

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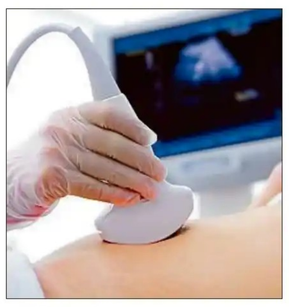
State partners with pvt hospitals to curb maternal mortality

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS



The state health department is collaborating with private hospitals across all districts to provide advanced care to pregnant women as part of its attempt to reduce the maternal mortality rate to zero.

Karnataka topped the list for the highest maternal mortality rate in South India, with 68 deaths per 1,000 live births. This prompted the government to launch programmes to help reduce the mortality rate.

Speaking to *DH*, Dr Rajini Nageshrao, Deputy Director, Obstetrics and Immunisation, said, "Most cases at the district level are referred to either Bengaluru or Hubballi for better and advanced treatment. The critical time necessary for saving lives is being sacrificed for commuting."

To facilitate immediate action, the department has collaborated with private hospitals, she said.

Many private hospitals across the state have refrained from providing the Arogya Bharatha Arogya Karnataka Scheme (AB-Ark) as the payment is subsidised.

The eligibility criteria for private hospitals were that they should be empanelled with the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust and have a minimum of a two-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with ventilatory support, and 24-hour availability of an obstetrician, anaesthetist and critical care specialist.

The government drafted a new payment scale to facilitate collaboration with private hospitals.

The ICU with ventilator facilities will be provided at Rs 7,000 per day at a private hospital, and an ICU facility without a ventilator at Rs 5,700 per day. Other facilities such as blood transfusion and dialysis will be available at an additional cost.

Karnataka topped the list for the highest maternal mortality rate in South India, with 68 deaths per 1,000 live births. This prompted the state government to launch programmes to help reduce the mortality rate.

"After consulting the technical committee, we have fixed the package for seven days. If the patient needs more treatment but is stabilised, the person will be sent back to a government facility to continue with the treatment," said Dr Rajini.

The government has empanelled services to facilitate shifting of patients from government-to-government hospital, government-to-private, private-to-private (both under SAST scheme and accepting AB-Ark), and private-to-government facility.

The obstetrics service will be provided to any person in need of treatment, regardless of economic status or for migrants with no proof of state identity, she further said.

FATAL COLLISION

Two children killed as school bus hits scooter

4-year-old and toddler come under rear wheel of bus; cops arrest driver on charges of negligence

Bhanu

Varsha

BENGALURU, DHNS

Two children, aged four and two, were killed after a private school bus hit a scooter near the police quarters in RK Hegde Nagar in northeast Bengaluru on Wednesday morning.

A police constable, who was riding the scooter, sustained minor injuries.

The deceased have been identified as Bhanu (4) and Varsha (2). Varsha was the daughter of Naganagowda Mali Patil, a constable posted with the City Armed Reserve (CAR), while Bhanu was his niece.

The accident occurred around 8.15 am on Naganagowda was taking the children on his scooter to buy milk. Police said the school bus, coming from the opposite direction, hit the two-wheeler while turning at Revenue Layout, 3rd Cross.

The children, who were standing in front of the scooter, fell onto the road and were run over by the rear wheel of the bus. They suffered severe injuries and were declared dead on arrival at a nearby hospital.

The Hennur police have arrested the bus driver, Mareppa A, 42, a native of Surpur in Yadgir district, on charges of causing death by negligence. The bus has been seized.

More than 10 schoolchildren were inside the bus at the time of the incident. Police arranged alternate transport to drop them at school.

During questioning, Mareppa reportedly told the police that while taking the turn, he was focused on the left-side mirror and failed to notice the scooter approaching from the right.

Trip to city ends in tragedy

Bhanu's father, Doddanagowda Mali Patil, a farmer from Lingasur, had arrived in Bengaluru a week ago to spend time with his brother's family. He was considering enrolling his daughter in a city school, citing better educational opportunities.

Doddanagowda has two daughters, while his brother Naganagowda has a five-year-old son.

No alcohol detected

Police confirmed that no alcohol was detected in his system.

The bodies were handed over to the family after post-mortem.

Retired navy captain, wife murdered by techie-son

Was enraged by constant 'jobless taunts': Police

BENGALURU, DHNS

A retired Indian Navy captain and his wife were allegedly murdered by their son at their residence in Bengaluru on Wednesday, police said.

Investigators suspect the attack followed repeated disputes, including over his unemployment.

Around 8.30 am, morning walkers in Vignan Nagar near HAL saw the suspect, Rohan Chandra Bhat (33), running out of the family's villa in bloodstained clothes. They also heard his parents' cries for help from inside the house.

Residents entered the home and alerted emergency services.

Naveen Chandra Bhat (60), a retired Navy captain, and his wife, Dr Shyamala Bhat (55), a dentist, were shifted to Manipal Hospitals, where they were declared brought dead, a police officer close to investigating the case told *DH*.

Rohan Chandra Bhat

Police suspect that Rohan attacked his parents with a knife following a quarrel. The injuries proved fatal, the officer added.

HAL police have arrested Rohan on charges of murder and will produce him before a court on Thursday.

According to preliminary investigations, Rohan frequently argued with his father, who allegedly reprimanded him for being unemployed.

Police said Rohan, a software professional, had returned from the US three years ago, but had not taken up employment in Bengaluru. He was living separately in Varthur and was reportedly aspiring to start his own venture. Frequent demands for money are suspected to have led to repeated quarrels, officers said.

Property dispute?

However, investigators are examining all possible angles, including a potential property dispute.

The bodies have been shifted to Bowring Hospital for post-mortem examination, which will be conducted after the couple's daughter arrives from the US.

A case of murder has been registered based on a complaint filed by a local resident.

UPI outage temporarily impacts metro services

BENGALURU, DHNS: Commuters paying for metro tickets through UPI QR codes faced hardships on Tuesday evening due to a nationwide outage, according to the BMRCL.

The issue — noticed both in online QR codes as well as those displayed at ticket counters — persisted from 6.40 pm to 9 pm, it added.

The BMRCL said the issue reportedly occurred due to a technical issue at the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It added that its systems were functioning normally, and its role in the outage was nil.

Finance firms must produce stolen, pledged gold before police: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has observed that a person or institution has no legal right to refuse or delay production of gold, allegedly stolen and pledged, when lawfully required by the investigating officer under Section 94 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

"The BNSS does not recognise "financial exposure" or "loan recovery difficulty" as valid grounds to withhold stolen property from investigation," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said, rejecting the petition filed by IIFL Finance Ltd, an institution involved in gold loans and other financial services.

The petitioner challenged the notice issued by the Kengeri police under BNSS Section 94 in a case for offences under BNS sections 316 (2), 316 (5) and 318 (4).

The complaint was filed by Karur Vysya Bank alleging breach of trust, cheating, and misappropriation.

The complainant stated that one of its employees, an assistant manager as well as jewellery loan officer, had replaced gold articles worth Rs 4.54 crore pledged by customers with spurious articles and pledged the same with IIFL Finance Ltd to raise loans.

The petitioner company claimed to have produced a statement to the police indicating the amounts disbursed as loans.

However, the statement did not contain particulars such as the dates of the pledge, quantity and description of gold pledged, verification made at the time of each pledge, and identifying features of the gold articles. The petitioner said production of the gold would result in loss of its security interest.

After perusing the provisions, Justice Govindaraj noted that Section 94 contemplates a limited but essential investigative power, that is, requisition for production. Any subsequent step, such as seizure under Section 107, would necessarily have to be taken strictly in accordance with law and subject to judicial oversight, the court said.

"More importantly, the petitioner's asserted security interest, even if assumed to exist contractually, cannot override the superior claim of the true owner of the stolen property. A pledge created by an accused person who had no lawful title to the gold cannot defeat the rights of the original owner, nor can it impede a lawful criminal investigation," Justice Govindaraj said.

The court said that an investigating officer is statutorily empowered to issue a notice requiring production of such gold and connected records from the person in whose possession the same is believed to be.

"...investigation into such offences is ultimately directed towards restoration of property to its rightful owners and vindication of their rights. If the gold articles alleged to be stolen are not produced before the investigating officer, the investigation would be rendered sterile," the court said.

GBA begins processing land-use change requests

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a relief to property owners and developers, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has started accepting requests for change of land use (CLU) and development plans (DPs), which are also linked to the city's growth.

The move comes several months after the state government empowered the GBA with planning powers, previously held by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

Applications related to change of land use determine the type of development—residential, commercial or industrial—while the development plan is linked to the building sketch approval.

Officials in the Greater Bengaluru Authority's town planning department said the authority has already started processing applications, but has yet to form a committee to clear requests.

"We are currently accepting applications manually at the Greater Bengaluru Authority headquarters. The process of developing a software application is underway," an official said.

Builders familiar with the process said there is confusion as the applications were previously handled by the BDA.

"The entire process is offline, which is the same as the Bangalore Development Authority. There are initial hiccups, but it could take about two or three meetings to figure out the process," he said.

Under the new system, he said, only the front desk has changed. "Ultimately, all applications go to the Urban Development Department."

CID intensifies hunt for MLA in Biklu Shiva murder case

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has stepped up its search for BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, who has been named as the fifth accused in the murder of rowdy-sheeter Biklu Shiva.

The development comes after the Karnataka High Court rejected Basavaraj's anticipatory bail plea.

A lookout notice had already been issued against him in December last year. Sources said there was little possibility of him leaving Bengaluru city limits.

A senior CID officer said Basavaraj is currently absconding and that teams are tracking his movements. "He will be arrested and his statement will be recorded thereafter," the officer said.

The SUV speeds away with Nanjunda, a goods vehicle driver, on the bonnet after he sat on it following a road-rage argument on Old Airport Road on Wednesday.

SUV driver arrested for speeding with man clinging to bonnet

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Halasuru police have arrested a 52-year-old SUV driver for allegedly driving recklessly with a man clinging to the bonnet of his vehicle following a road rage incident on Old Airport Road on Wednesday afternoon.

The accused, identified as Suresh, a resident of Pulakeshinagar, was taken into custody shortly after the incident. His wife was also inside the car at the time. The vehicle is registered in her name.

According to a senior police officer, the incident occurred around 12.45 pm after a minor collision led to a heated argument between Suresh and Nanjunda, a goods vehicle driver.

During the altercation, Nanjunda climbed onto the bonnet of the SUV. In a fit of rage, Suresh allegedly drove the vehicle at high speed while Nanjunda clung to the bonnet, shouting at him to stop.

The incident triggered panic among commuters and was captured on the dashcam of another vehicle. The footage later went viral on social media.

Police said that during verification, Suresh was found to be a repeat offender in cases related to rash driving and other violations under the Motor Vehicles Act.

The episode has once again raised concerns over rising instances of road rage and reckless driving in the city.

Hebbagodi incident

In a similar incident reported recently, a video surfaced showing bodybuilder Prashanth clinging to the window of a moving car.

He was killed after the driver, identified as Roshan Hegde, crashed the speeding vehicle into a tree within the Hebbagodi police station limits.

Police promote Vimukti helpline for drug-free Mysuru

MYSURU, DHNS: Amid rising crime in Mysuru and surrounding areas, police have stepped up patrols and inspections at high-traffic locations across the city.

Foot patrols led by officers are being conducted from 6 pm to 11 pm as part of a drive to make the city drug-free.

Vimukti helpline

The Mysuru city police have urged the public to report information on illegal drug sale, transport or consumption to the Vimukti helpline (82779 48080).

Police Commissioner Seema Latkar said the identity of informants will be kept confidential. Awareness about the helpline is being spread among students and the public.

PROTEST DAY

Trade union strike today; industries hit, normal life unaffected

BENGALURU, DHNS

Trade unions have called for a nationwide strike on Thursday, opposing the four labour codes and pressing a charter of demands, including the reinstatement of MGNREGA. While daily life and public transport are expected to remain largely unaffected, industrial production may be disrupted.

Workers in major industrial areas — Bidadi, Kumbalgodu, Jigani, Bommasandra, Narasapura, Peenya, Vemagal, Dobbspet, Electronics City and Whitefield — are expected to abstain from work in support of the strike. Protest meetings will be held in these areas, union leaders said.

Employees of government-owned BSNL and LIC have announced participation in the protest. However, other public sector institutions, including transport corporations and banks, are likely to function as usual.

Under the leadership of the Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU), 11 unions will stage a protest at Town Hall at 11.30 am and court arrest. Workers from various sectors are expected to participate, said JCTU coordinator KV Bhat.

"This may not directly affect public life. But industrialists and IT–BT entrepreneurs will be impacted. When production stops even for a day, losses run into crores. The importance of workers will then be realised," said CITU president Meenakshi Sundaram and secretary S Varalakshmi.

Core demands

- Repeal the four labour codes
- Reinstate MGNREGA
- Withdraw the Land Acquisition Act
- Withdraw amendments to the Land Reforms Act, APMC Act & Cattle Protection Act
- Halt privatisation of electricity
- Withdraw the Seeds Act
- Repeal the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025
- Cancel the state notification to implement the four labour codes
- Increase minimum wages for workers
- Do not implement what unions term "anti-people" Central laws in Karnataka

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

International Conference: 'Food and Food Culture'; Organised by Department of English, Bangalore University; SM Jayakar, KT Shanthala and others to participate; Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics University, Jnanabharathi; 9 am.

Discussion: Girish Karnad's play 'Thaledanda'; Organised by Kannada and Culture Department; C Basavalingaiah and Rekha Sinha to take part; Jain (Deemed to be University), JGI Knowledge campus, Jayanagar; 2 pm.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Hanumana'; Directed by Vishwanath Mandi; Organised by Sangraha; Kalagrama, Mallathalli; 6 pm.

Concert: SS Vittal (vocals), RS Prashant (tabla), Aditya Ram (rhythm pad); Nanjangud Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Jayanagar; 5.15 pm.

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◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.0°C
Minimum	15.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	32%
Sunset (Feb 12)	6:24 pm
Sunrise (Feb 13)	6:44 am
Moonrise	1:36 am
Moonset	1:05 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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The scholarships were distributed to 130 meritorious students. Each student received Rs 5,000.

Venkateshwara Group distributes Rs 5.25 lakh in scholarships

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sree Venkateshwara Group of Educational Institutions, KR Puram, distributed scholarships worth Rs 5.25 lakh to 130 meritorious students, including those from SC/ST and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The beneficiaries, who had excelled in their II PUC examinations, are currently pursuing first-year BCom, BCA and BBA courses.

Each student received Rs 5,000.

The scholarships were distributed by M Ramesh, president of Akhil Bharat Vidyarthi Parishad, Bengaluru City.

Group Chairman Dr KV Muniswamy said the initiative would continue in the coming years to support deserving students.

Administrator Dr Puttaraju, Managing Director Prof Ravi VM, Principal Dr Satiaseelan Nair, PU College Principal Prakash, Vice Principals Chandraiah and Nagarjuna, and HODs Manjunath and Ramesh were present on the occasion.

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London Paris Swiss Italy (9D)	285K-295K	205K-215K
European Highlights (11D)	305K-320K	225K-240K
European Delight (13D)	370K-385K	290K-305K
European Jewels (15D)	410K-425K	330K-345K
European Essence (15D)	400K-425K	330K-355K
Multi-Country Europe (17D-27D)	465K-695K	385K-615K
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England Scotland /Ireland (10/15D)	315K-440K	245K-370K
Swiss Paris/French Riviera (8D/10D)	285K-310K	210K-240K
Swiss Paris London (11D)	375K-400K	290K-315K
Swiss Paris Italy (11D)	320K-335K	250K-265K
Swiss Austria/Italy(8D/11D)	275K-335K	205K-265K
Swiss Paris Austria (11D)	330K-340K	260K-270K
Italy (8D/15D)	295K-465K	230K-395K
Switzerland (7D/10D)	275K-360K	210K-290K
Best of Austria (8D)	275K-290K	205K-220K
Best of France (11D)	325K-340K	255K-270K

Northern Scandinavian Europe

Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
Highlights of Scandinavia (7D)	250K-275K	175K-200K
Best of Scandinavia (10D)	335K-360K	250K-275K
All of Scandinavia (15D)	475K-500K	385K-400K
Scandinavia Iceland (15D)	565K-590K	475K-500K
Scandinavia Eastern Europe (17D)	525K-550K	440K-465K
Scandinavia Russia (17D)	435K-460K	365K-390K
Scandinavia Midnight Sun (16D)	535K-550K	455K-470K
Scandinavia Midnight Sun (9D)	375K-400K	295K-420K
Scandinavia Iceland Midnight Sun (14D)	625K-650K	545K-570K
Scandinavia Northern Lights (9D)	400K-425K	310K-335K
Iceland Northern Lights (10D) Mar 12	515K-545K	440K-465K
Scandinavia Iceland Northern Lights (14D) Mar 4	520K-545K	430K-455K
Scandinavia Iceland Northern Lights+Icebreaker Cruise (15D)	575K-600K	480K-505K
Best of Greenland (9D) Aug 31	675K-700K	585K-610K
Best of Russia (7D)	175K-200K	115K-140K

Southern Europe, Mediterranean Europe, Central, Eastern Europe

Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
Highlights of Spain (7D)	200K-225K	130K-155K
Best of Spain (10D/11D)	265K-280K	195K-210K
All of Spain (15D)	375K-400K	305K-330K
Spain Portugal (13D)	335K-360K	260K-285K
Spain Portugal Morocco (16D)	375K-400K	295K-320K
Greece Athens Santorini (5D)	200K-225K	135K-160K
Greece Athens Santorini Mykonos (7D)	250K-275K	185K-205K
Greece Athens Santorini Rhodes (9D)	300K-315K	235K-250K
Greece Athens Santorini Rhodes Mykonos (10D)	325K-350K	260K-285K
All of Greece (14D)	425K-450K	360K-385K
Egypt Greece Turkey (15D)	425K-450K	--
Greece Turkey (12D)	350K-375K	270K-295K
Turkey (10D/15D)	225K-350K	155K-180K
Best of Egypt (9D)	175K-200K	115K-140K
Egypt Greece Cyprus (12D)	390K-415K	310K-330K
Greece Cyprus (9D)	325K-350K	245K-270K
Egypt Morocco (8D)	240K-265K	170K-195K
Egypt Jordan (10D)	295K-320K	230K-255K
Best of Jordan (7D) Mar 22	200K-225K	135K-160K

Tour Name	Ex-Mumbai	J&L
Vienna Prague Budapest(8D)	250K-275K	175K-200K
Berlin Warsaw Krakow (8D)	240K-265K	170K-195K
Croatia Slovenia Slovakia Hungary (12D)	330K-345K	255K-270K
Central & Eastern Europe (17D)	400K-425K	325K-350K
Uzbekistan Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan (9D)	215K-230K	160K-175K
Tashkent Samarkand (5D) Mar 17, 24	81K-85K	61K-65K
Georgia Armenia Baku (10D)	225K-250K	175K-200K
Georgia Armenia (8D)	175K-200K	125K-150K
Georgia (5D/8D) Mar 17	99K-175K	49K-130K
Baku (5D/8D)	99K-150K	64K-110K
Baltic Europe Estonia Latvia Lithuania (8D)	250K-275K	180K-205K
Baltic Europe + Scandinavia (15D)	500K-525K	420K-445K
Baltic Berlin Warsaw Krako (15D)	390K-415K	330K-355K
Balkan Romania Bulgaria Serbia North Macedonia (15D)	405K-430K	335K-360K
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Stir likely to disrupt mid-day meals at schools today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Mid-Day Meal (MDM) distribution to schools across the state is likely to be disrupted on Thursday as the MDM workers are taking part in the strike call given by Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) against labour policies of the Centre.

Demanding the Centre to withdraw its policies, the Trade Unions have called for a nationwide strike on Thursday. The unions demanded repeal of the four labour codes and withdrawal of several proposed and existing policies affecting workers and farmers.

This protest is supported by the MDM workers, including cooks and helpers. So, the government and aided schools will have to struggle to serve MDM, milk under Ksheera Bhagya and boiled eggs given to children at the schools.

Following the protest call, the Department of School Education and Literacy has instructed the schools to take necessary alternate measures to avoid disruption of any of the services because of the protest.

The director of PM Poshan Shakti Nirman Project has issued an emergent note to all deputy directors of department at district level asking them to try to convince the MDM staff not to participate in the protest.

"Even after efforts to convince, if the staff decides to take part in the protest and boycotts the work, then the schools must have alternate arrangements in place at the local level," reads the instruction by the director.

Karnataka has more than 1.19 lakh MDM workers, known as cook-cum-helpers and predominantly women.

Unified Land Management System likely in 2026-27: KBG

INTERVIEW

'Very shortly, we're going to automate mutations involving sale deeds, wills or partition deeds'

BENGALURU, DHNS

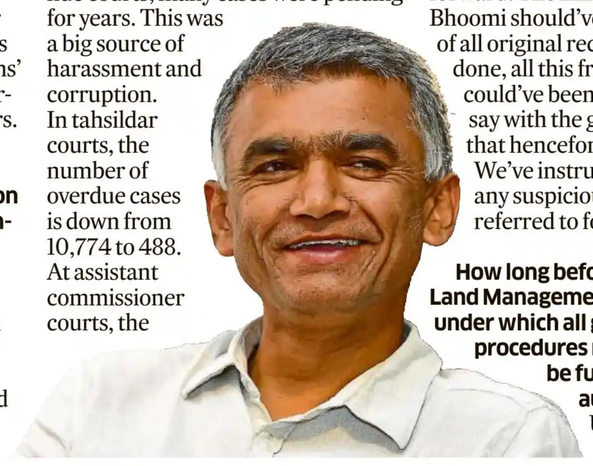
The Congress government, which completes 1,000 days on February 13, will distribute title deeds to 1.1 lakh 'undocumented' families at a public event in Haveri. Anchoring this is Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who tells *DH*'s **Bharath Joshi** why he's on a reforms' spree, and that he might be on a warpath against some of his own officers. Excerpts:

Do you agree that public perception about the government, which completes 1,000 days, isn't good?

Upcoming elections will provide some indication of where we stand vis-a-vis the public today. At least in our department, we're happy that we've been able to do some meaningful work. We've made steady and solid progress in resolving issues that many previous regimes left incomplete and unattended. We're mindful that there's a lot more to be done. But in 1,000 days, and I must speak for my team, we've done substantial work for which there's data.

You've talked about making life easy for citizens by digitising services and removing middlemen. Has retail corruption ended?

I can't change society or human behaviour. What I can do, sitting in my position, is to identify sources allowing middlemen, bad governance, corruption and harassment of people, and start plugging those gaps. I'm neither foolish nor self-conceited to say that I've eliminated corruption. However, I can give you examples of how we've made progress. In revenue courts, many cases were pending for years. This was a big source of harassment and corruption. In tahsildar courts, the number of overdue cases is down from 10,774 to 488. At assistant commissioner courts, the number is down from 73,624 to 11,601. Citizens had to meet a certain someone to get certified copies of documents. Under Bhu Suraksha, we've scanned 69 crore pages of original documents. You can obtain certified copies at your fingertips anytime, anywhere. We're telling people: don't come to our office.



Over the years, fudged documents have entered the system. What's the possibility of such documents being scanned and digitised?

For decades, a lot of forgeries have been committed and fake documents inserted into our record rooms. The damage is done. This idea of scanning records started as a pilot project in 2009! But nobody took it forward. The immediate step after Bhoomi should've been scanning of all original records. If that was done, all this fraud and forgery could've been prevented. I can say with the greatest certainty that henceforth, it'll not happen. We've instructed in writing that any suspicious record must be referred to forensics testing.

How long before the Unified Land Management System (UMLS), under which all government procedures related to land, will be fully paperless and automated?

ULMS involves the departments of revenue, urban development, rural development and town planning. My department is pushing it. Ultimately, ULMS will be a great boon for citizens. But this depends on equal and enthusiastic participation by all. Hopefully, we can fully roll it out in 2026-27. Right now, it's partly operational. Recently, we introduced automatic conversion of land, which is in the spirit of ULMS. The ULMS requires a lot of rationale-based decision-making from various agencies and wherever possible, an automatic process. About two years ago, we brought in auto-mutation in the Record of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops (RTC). Very shortly, we're going to automate mutations involving sale deeds, wills or partition deeds.

Some officers have prepared a dossier against you, and that you publicly humiliate them.

Look, I'm doing my job. I'm here to serve people. I'm trying to do it to the best of my ability. There are a large number of good officers whom I've appreciated. There may be a few officers who think they're above the public interest or the law. They're working systematically to derail the work being done in public interest. They're also targeting me personally. Some have thrown a challenge that they'll see how long I'll last. They've said no one has survived after taking them head-on. I'm ready to face the consequences.

Hope, fear ahead of Bangladesh polls today

B'desh polls, from Page 1

"I want to see a government that is free from corruption and ensure freedom of speech for everyone, irrespective of caste, creed and religion. As citizens, we should vouch for protection of the rights of everyone, including women," says 19-year-old Turzo, who wants to be a civil engineer.

He recognises the role of India in the 1971 liberation war, wants the new government to have a relationship based on mutual trust and respect with its biggest neighbour, but argues that Delhi should deport Hasina to face punishment for her crimes.

Unlike Turzo, though, not many are speaking freely to journalists on the second elections in less than two years.

The BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) led by Tarique Rahman, son of former PM Khalida Zia, who returned to Bangladesh only in December last year after 17 years of political exile, is the frontrunner.

He is challenged by the radical Jamaat-e-Islami led by 67-year-old former government doctor Shafiqur Rahman, backed by smaller parties and the National Citizens Party or NCP, born out of the GenZ students' movement led by popular face Nahid Islam.

The Awami League, which enjoyed 15 long years in power under Hasina, has not been allowed to contest by the interim Mohammed Yunus regime.

Minorities and Bangladeshi Hindus, who constitute around 10% of the electorate, are asking if the elections would indeed be fair. Many are undecided if they should vote at all or choose the BNP, which they see as a lesser evil compared to the radical Jamaat.

"If Jamaat wins, they will implement sharia law," warns Monindra Kumar Nath, acting General Secretary of the Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, an umbrella organisation of minority groups. Manik Rai, a Bangladeshi Hindu doctor, has decided to boycott the polls and feels the future looks bleak with the current options.

But the Jamaat Emir, who met foreign journalists on Wednesday afternoon, insisted that everyone is equal in Bangladesh. It is a claim many question, given Jamaat's history of connivance with the Pakistan army in the liberation war.

Also concerning is the issue of women's rights, with the Jamaat talking about separate public transport and education spaces for the gender that forms 51% of the country's population. Women who have been the backbone of the country's textile sector, and at the front of several social and political movements over the decades, are hoping that gender segregation does not become their lived reality in a new Bangladesh.

It's an issue the BNP has latched onto to woo women voters.

"We will financially and socially empower the mother of the house and give further opportunity to live with dignity where even the male members of the family will be depending on them," claimed Mahdi Amin, the advisor to Tarique Rehman, in an exclusive conversation.

SC allows appeals in 530 land acquisition disputes

Land disputes, from Page 1

"Sec 74 of the 2013 Act does not bar the application of Sec 5 (which empowered courts to condone delay due to sufficient cause) of the Limitation Act. Consequently, all the applications seeking condonation of delay in preferring the first appeals before the high courts under Section 74 of the 2013 Act stand allowed," the bench said.

The court directed all respective state governments to take necessary measures and issue appropriate directions to officers dealing with appeals against the award passed after commencement of the 2013 Act to ensure that the appeals are filed as provided under Section 74 of the 2013 Act.

Dealing with the matter, the bench flagged concerns on collusion and active connivance of the different persons, including the office of the acquiring body and that of their counsel and their lackadaisical approach in filing appeals.

Emphasising that the malice must be addressed by creating a better management and monitoring system, the bench said, "Accountability is an important facet in a constitutional democracy governed by the rule of law. When an instrumentality of the state and its officials act with such connivance and collusion, it not only undermines the administration of justice but also erodes public confidence in the legal system."

The court said repeated failure to pursue remedies within time cannot be brushed aside as mere negligence and calls for fixing responsibility on erring officials."The very appeals before us, approximately 530 in number, are classic examples of such official connivance. As a matter of fact, we find that in most of these cases, even copy applications had not been filed within time prescribed, pursuant to judgments delivered by the reference court," the bench said.

"The judgment has far-reaching implications for state's finances. Due to successful challenge mounted by government, with Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, public money running into tens of thousands ofcrores of rupees stands protected."

Ratings: Bescom 51 out of 54

Bescom, from Page 1

At 26th rank, Mescom was the top performer from the state.

Experts said unless the government implements structural reforms, the situation of the ESCOMs may not improve.

"The Gurucharan committee report had suggested many reforms and those need to be implemented. There is an immediate need to introduce such structural and functional reforms to ensure that the ESCOMs are revived," said M G Prabhakar, former member of KERC advisory committee.Senior officials from energy department said they had identified some issues.

"We understand there were some accounting issues. The receivables were not received and we couldn't adhere to a few accounting standards. We identified problems and are working. On other aspects, our performance is satisfactory. Our revenue growth is healthy," said Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary (Energy).

US drops pulses from...

Fact sheet, from Page 1

The revised version comes in the wake of sharp reactions, especially about agricultural produce that accounts for almost a fifth of India's GDP. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday had questioned the Modi government's repeated commitments to shield 'sensitive sectors' like agriculture and animal husbandry.

The first fact sheet had listed 'certain pulses' among the products for which India would reduce tariffs.

This was not mentioned in the 'joint statement' released by India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry last week.

Speaking to reporters in Nuremberg on Wednesday, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal said based on the interim pact, the final legal agreement is likely to be signed by March-end. "Wherever there is a little sensitivity, we have used tariff rate quota mechanisms to ensure that any market access is limited in nature and it doesn't impact our farmers," he said.

The initial version of the White House fact sheet and joint statement also differed about the imports of red sorghum, which the joint statement qualified, would be permitted, for 'animal feed'. The first fact sheet released by the White House stated that India would reduce tariffs on red sorghum in general.

Another significant change in the revised fact sheet released Wednesday is the exclusion of the word 'other agricultural goods'. Its mention had raised apprehensions in the domestic circles that the US may use this open-ended clause in the interim agreement to expand the list of tariff-free imports into India in the final document.

The updated version of the fact sheet says, "India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine & spirits, & additional products."

After the announcement of initial framework by the two sides last week, after a telephonic conversation between PM Modi and US President Donald Trump, India had claimed the agreement would protect its sensitive sectors like farming and dairy.

'Kin denying women farmland share'

Farmland, from Page 1

Gowda estimates 30% of cases involve complexities. "While 5% of cases are in civil courts, 20% involve disagreement amongst brothers. Then, there are cases where brothers don't want sisters to get share," he said.

No other state took up exercise of estimating nature of agriculture landholdings, he said. "This was a 50-year-old problem. It was a disgrace and no government even knew about it," he said.

Failure to transfer farmland ownership from deceased persons to legal heirs leads to problems, he said. "These people won't have absolute ownership. They can't approach banks, they won't get government assistance," he said. "I asked people why they did not get *pouti khatas* done. The answers were wishy-washy."

The *pouti khata* drive is also fighting corruption, he said. "Let's say that a VAO did one *pouti khata* in 2-3 days. I don't know what the [bribe] was. I don't know what percentage of officials exploited this. By taking this process to doorsteps of people, we have cut retail corruption," he said.

270 quintals of PDS rice seized

HUBBALLI, DHNS: The police seized 270.60 quintals of PDS rice, worth Rs 9.20 lakh, being illegally transported from Haveri to Mumbai in a lorry. The driver, Imran Kalal of Ajmer Nagar, has been arrested. A case has been registered at the Old Hubballi police station in this regard.

Injured tiger caught

MADIKERI, DHNS: The forest department personnel captured a six-year-old injured male tiger near Besaguru village in Ponnampet taluk. The tiger had sustained an injury to its leg and was in poor health. It had killed seven cattle. After a four-hour operation, the tiger was successfully captured with the help of trained elephants and has been shifted to Bannerghatta for treatment, DCF Jagannath said.

SAD DEMISE

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Date of Expired 11/02/2026

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Dated : 10.02.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India. The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/OHE, Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.

Name of Work	RMM YARD MODIFICATION WORK & GANGIKONDAN STATION - OHE augmentation work in connection with proposed new platform line at Road-5 with yard modification of Rameswaram Station in Madurai division and OHE Augmentation of Gangaikondan Station for Proposed Goods Line in Madurai Division of Southern Railway.
Tender Value	Rs. 3,65,68,907.13
Bid Security	Rs. 3,32,900.00
Tender closing Date and Time : 10.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs.	
For more details visit : www.ireps.gov.in	

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / OHE

Electrical Construction, Chennai - 8.

For and on behalf of President of India

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 26/2026/SBC Date : 06.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Tender No.	Description in brief (E-open Tender)	Last Date of Submission/ Tender Due on	Qty.	Unit
1	L8256428A	Supply of long Rail Jumper with clamps at both ends of different sizes.	09.03.2026 10.30 Hrs	1300	No's
2	L8257104	ABC type DCP fire extinguisher having capacity 6kg as per RCF specification MDTS-46270(Rev-03)	02.03.2026 10.30 Hrs	800	No's
3	L8265097	SUPPLY ONE COACH SET OF 160 KN AIR SPRING ASSEMBLY FOR FIAT TYRE BOGIE	06.03.2026 10.30 Hrs	10	Sets

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Material Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/885/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the RailOne app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through RailOne app, and enjoy up to a 3% discount.

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 03/MYS/2026 Date : 05.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	Sub Work-I:MYSORE- DIVISION - Hassan Manglore Jn section: Through rail renewal (primary) of Existing 52Kg/90 UTS rails with new 60Kg Rails (straight portion) at scattered location from 41.300 to Km.98/000 between Sakleshpur and Subrahmanya Road station for a length of 16.70 Kms. Sub Work-II:-Assistant Divisional Engineer/Sakleshpur Renewal of worn out rubber pad, metal liner & ERC and pulling back of creep in Sakleshpur- Subrahmanya ghat section. Sub Work-III - Assistant Divisional Engineer/Sakleshpur sub division: Through renewal of check rail in Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya ghat section.	28580974
2	Kadur-Chikkamagaluru Section: Construction of Catch Water Drain Side Protection/Retaining Wall @ Km 36/715-37/460 between Kanivehalli-Chikkamagaluru stations at both LHS and RHS of the Track.	46268724
	Total	Rs. 74849698/-

Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 11.00 hrs on 02.03.2026

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/ Mysuru

PUB/888/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

North Eastern Space Applications Centre

Govt. of India, Dept. of Space

Umaiam-793103, Meghalaya, Tel: 0364-2570140

Advt. No. NESAC/RMT-TEMP/WI-01/2026 Date: 12 February 2026

North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) invites eligible candidates to attend "Walk-in-Interview" for the positions of Research Scientist and Junior Research Fellow on temporary Project Basis at NESAC, Umiam on 05th & 06th March 2026, at 8.30 AM (Reporting Time).

For detailed advertisement, Kindly visit NESAC Website: https://nesac.gov.in/. Corrigendum / addendum, if any, will be published only in the NESAC website.

CBC 49123-12-0003-2526

Sd/- Director, NESAC

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.

CN/03/2026 Date: 02.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Tender No.	Description of brief (E-open Tender)
95265041	3 core x 400 Sq mm 6.35/11 KV Grade 90 Deg. C rating heavyduty power cable with stranded compacted circular aluminium conductor as per IS 7098 Part-II. Qty: 1000 mtrs.

Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 10.30 hrs on 26.02.2026

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Material Manager/ Construction, Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/887/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the RailOne app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through RailOne app, and enjoy up to a 3% discount.

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. ECN-TRD-04-2025 Dt: 05.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointing Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for providing Project Supervision Services for Various Construction Sites/Sections (Bengaluru Cantt. & Hubballi Unit) in the jurisdiction of Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction Hubballi over SWR Zone.	Rs. 2,56,49,420.16/-

Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 11.00 hrs on 23.03.2026

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution-I /Construction/ Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/884/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the RailOne app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through RailOne app, and enjoy up to a 3% discount.

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PROVISION OF FIBER OFC

Tender Notice No.: N_01_HQ-2025-26-RT-1; Date: 06-02-2026. E-tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; Tender No.: N_01_HQ-2025-26-RT-1; Name of Work: Provision of 4 x 48 fiber OFC for communication backbone in section New Bongaigaon (NBQ) - Goalpara (GLPT)- Kamakhya (KYQ) (176 RKm) and Golakganj (GKJ) to Abhyapuri (AYU) (84.84 RKm) of Rangiya Division under HUN6 sections. Advertised Value: ₹25,64,98,360.31; Earnest Money: ₹14,32,500.00. E-tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on 10-03-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy CSTE/Network, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

"Serving Customers with a smile"

PROVISION OF 4X48 FIBER OFC FOR COMMUNICATION BACKBONE

E-tender Notice No. N_02_HQ-2025-26-RT Dated: 06-02-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. N_02_HQ-2025-26-RT. Name of work: Provision of 4 x 48 fiber OFC for communication backbone in section Kamakhya -Guwahati - Lumding (191RKM) of Lumding Division under HUN6 sections covered within sanctioned KAVACH territory. Tender Value: ₹20,18,18,619.09/-. Earnest Money: ₹11,59,100/-. E-tender will be closed at 12:00 hrs. on 10-03-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in

Dy.CSTE/Network, Maligaon

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कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय,

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

ई– अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा संख्या :– 09/2025-26/EE/RWD/LATEHAR दिनांक : 11.02.2026

क्र0	आईडेंटी फिकेशन सं0 / पैकेज सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	RWD/LATEHAR/19/2025-26	DMFT मद अंतर्गत प्रखंड बरवाडीह ग्राम हड़पड़वा पी0डब्लू0डी0 रूदपड़वा यात्री शेड से पष्चिम टोला आर0ई0ओ0 रोड तक पी0सी0सी0 पथ का निर्माण।	242.715	रू0 दो करोड़ बयालीस लाख एकहत्तर हजार पॉच सौ रूपये मात्र।	12 माह

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 18.02.2026
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : 26.02.2026 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : 28.02.2026 अपराह्न 03:30 बजे।
4. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता, कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, लातेहार पिन – 829206।
5. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0 – 06565245038
6. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
7. लातेहार जिला अंतर्गत स्थानीय संवेदक / निविदादातों के द्वारा निविदा में भाग लिया जायेगा।
8. संवेदक पर जिलान्तर्गत किसी भी योजना का कार्य लंबित रहने पर उनकी निविदा पर विचार नही किया जायेगा।
9. एक संवेदक को एक वित्तीय वर्ष में इस मद का एक ही कार्य आवंटित किया जायेगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता

PR 372804 REO(25-26).D ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,कार्य प्रमण्डल, लातेहार

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD-29-2025-26-OT-44 Dt: 06.02.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
Provision of various OHE/PSI caution boards and Sectioning Diagrams over Bengaluru Period of Completion : 06 Months	Rs. 7210386.64/-

Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 15.00 hrs on 27.02.2026

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru

PUB/886/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the RailOne app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through RailOne app, and enjoy up to a 3% discount.

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

KARNATAKA in PARLIAMENT

Set up crafts village along B'luru-Mysuru expressway, says Siroya

NEW DELHI, DHNS: BJP Rajya Sabha member Lahar Singh Siroya on Wednesday urged the Centre to introduce the 'crafts village' (shilpa gram) concept along new expressway corridors, beginning with the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway.

Raising the matter in the House, Siroya called upon the union ministers for road transport and highways and micro; and small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to implement the initiative at the earliest.

He said that the government should mandate the identification and development of permanent, high-visibility sites on suitable government land adjacent to new expressways.

These sites would serve as dedicated marketplaces for local artisans and MSMEs to showcase and sell their products, he added.

Siroya suggested establishing a dedicated central mechanism to provide financial assistance and infrastructure support, transforming these crafts villages into state-of-the-art hubs.

This would safeguard the livelihoods of traditional craftspeople.

On the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, Siroya noted that several towns being bypassed had triggered an existential crisis for thousands of artisans and small business owners. Iconic, globally recognised traditions, including the GI-tagged Channapatna wooden toys and regional culinary heritage, had suffered business declines of up to 70-80%.

He specifically advocated for the establishment of a crafts village near Channapatna.

India must pursue human spaceflight programme: Shukla

'Collaborating with other countries is a way forward'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) with the US Consulate General discussed the ongoing projects and future of the space sector with Group Captains Shubhanshu Shukla and Prasanth Balakrishna Nair.

In 2025, Shukla became the first Indian to visit the International Space Station as a part of Axim Mission 4. Prasanth Nair was one of the four men identified to be trained for the Gaganyaan mission of the ISRO, part of the Indian human spaceflight programme. He was the back up to Shubhanshu Shukla for the Axiom Mission 4.

Addressing the media, Shukla said that India must pursue its ambitious human spaceflight programme despite complexities and challenges. Speaking about Mission Gaganyaan, Shukla said, "Only three countries in the world, so far, have attempted what we are trying to do with Mission Gaganyaan. This mission will place the country amongst a selected group of countries with the ability to travel to space."

IAF Group Captains and astronauts Shubhanshu Shukla and Prashant B Nair pose with delegates and students during a session at the US-India Space Business Forum, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

He also said that the Gaganyaan has provided a lot of opportunities to the local manufacturers of materials used in the building of a spacecraft.

Speaking about Axiom Mission 4, Shukla said, "Collaborating with other countries is a way forward for space exploration in the space sector. There are a lot of opportunities irrespective of which country we belong to."

With the booming use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and deep tech across all sectors, Prasanth Nair said, the same should be used in space as well. "The upcoming projects should focus beyond rockets and satellites as that problem now has largely been solved. The younger generation should use AI, which is a cutting edge technology, for the common good such as defence with a possible collaboration with like-minded countries."

Reflecting on the relationship with the United States of America in the space sector, Nair said, "Both the countries have fantastic visibilities with good men, machines and leadership as they are both democracies and have a common interest."

Shukla also said that he had taken seven new space related experiments to test them during his stay there. He also shared their experience of their visit to the NASA center in Houston, in the US.

The grand dais, resembling Vijayanagar emperor Krishnadevaraya's durbar, is taking shape for the Hampi Utsav, scheduled to begin at Hampi in Vijayanagar district on Friday. DH PHOTO/LAVA K

All set for grand Hampi Utsav from tomorrow

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is set to inaugurate Hampi Utsav at the heritage town of Hampi at 7 pm on Friday.

Art and sculpting camps have already taken off as part of the celebration.

A grand stage resembling Vijayanagar emperor Krishnadevaraya's durbar has been constructed on the ground near Gayathri Peetha.

District incharge Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan inspected the arrangements along with officials on Wednesday.

The 'Hampi By Sky' programme, which involves helicopter rides over the historic town, is set to be inaugurated on Thursday morning.

The Vasantha Vaibhava shobha yatra of folk troupes is scheduled in the evening.

The flower show, food mela, crafts exhibition, water sports, rural sports, wrestling contest and bullocks' fair, besides other cultural and adventure competitions are set to kick off on Friday.

Noted singers Vijayaprakash and Hariharan are set to perform in the evening on Day 1, while Navin Sajju and Arjun Janya are set to entertain the crowds on Day 2.

This is in addition to cultural programmes by over 5,000 artistes on five stages on different days of the extravaganza.

Drone show

The 'Vijayanagara Vaibhava' sound and light show is scheduled for one week from February 13. Drone show for 15 minutes at 7 pm every day near the main dais is the highlight this year.

Budget: Panels pitch for reforms in 5 areas

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The formulation of a comprehensive State Gender Policy, the setting up of a Transgender Development Board, and the removal of the contract labour system are among the key recommendations made for the upcoming 2026–27 State Budget by a sub-committee functioning under the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission (KSPPC).

In addition to the sub-committee on women, children, marginalised communities and labour, four other sub-committees were constituted to focus on the education, health, agriculture, and environment sectors.

By the end of February, KSPPC Vice-Chairman B R Patil is expected to meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also chairs the KSPPC, to present these recommendations. The budget is likely to be tabled on March 6.

The document prepared by the sub-committee on women, children, marginalised communities and labour, accessed by *Deccan Herald*, has suggested specific paragraphs to be included in the Budget speech. "...This year, we strengthen our response to gender-based violence through coordinated, accountable, and survivor-centred systems. We will begin annual pre-budget consultations with women's and community organisations, launch a 'Status of Women in Karnataka' report to guide a new State Gender Policy."

The sub-committee has also urged the government to ensure economic dignity and security for sex workers.

It has recommended a transition to a Direct Payment System across departments, corporations, boards, and local bodies, covering all outsourced workers.

Monitoring health sector

A source in the health sub-committee told *DH* that the recommendations stress effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation within the health sector, along with streamlining the functioning of Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers.

The education sub-committee reportedly held extensive discussions on filling vacancies in government and public higher education institutions.

According to a source, three members—while conceptually supporting the filling of vacancies and opposing reliance on guest lecturers—felt the recruitment process should not be "hurried."

"Technological shifts and the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) have reduced the market's reliance on generic degrees. If teachers are recruited permanently, it may become challenging later, as some traditional degree courses could become redundant. However, until a clear policy is formulated, guest lecturers should be paid more than their existing salaries," the source said.

Speaking to *DH*, Patil described the initiative as being in line with the vision of a planning commission as envisaged by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and later implemented by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

"For the first time in 30 years, we are advising the CM on different departments. Due to time constraints, we have chosen only five departments this year. We will expand this exercise next year," he said.

Student found hanging at hostel in Bidar

BASAVAKALYAN (BIDAR DISTRICT), DHNS: An SSLC student was found hanging in his hostel room at Jawahar Navodaya School at Narayanapur in the taluk on Wednesday.

Sharath (16), a native of Manthal in the district, is the deceased. The incident came to light after his hostelmates noticed him hanging from the ceiling of his room in the morning. A suicide note found in the hostel room read: "Sorry mummy, daddy, Please forgive me. I love you." The Basavakalyan police have registered a case of unnatural death.

Meanwhile, the state child protection commission has taken a suo motu cognizance of the incident.

Office of the Director of Health Services
Medical Education & Research (DME), Meghalaya
Government of Meghalaya
Pasteur Hills, Shillong

Email ID: pasteurinstituteshil@gmail.com Tel No. 0364-2591510 / 94851 06663

No.DHSME&R/SMC/Tender/V/06/2025-26/520 Dtd: Shillong, the 11th February, 2026

EXTENSION NOTICE

In continuation of the NIT No. DHSME&R/SMC/TENDER/IV/20/2025/10033 dated 10th December, 2025 for procurement of equipment/items for the **SKILL LABORATORY**. Shillong Medical College, it is hereby notified that the last date and time for submission of bids is extended up to **20th February, 2026** at 15:00 hours, on account of limited submission of bids.

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Director of Health Services
Medical Education & Research (DME)
Meghalaya, Pasteur Hills, Shillong

MIPR No. : 2802
Dated on : 11/02/2026

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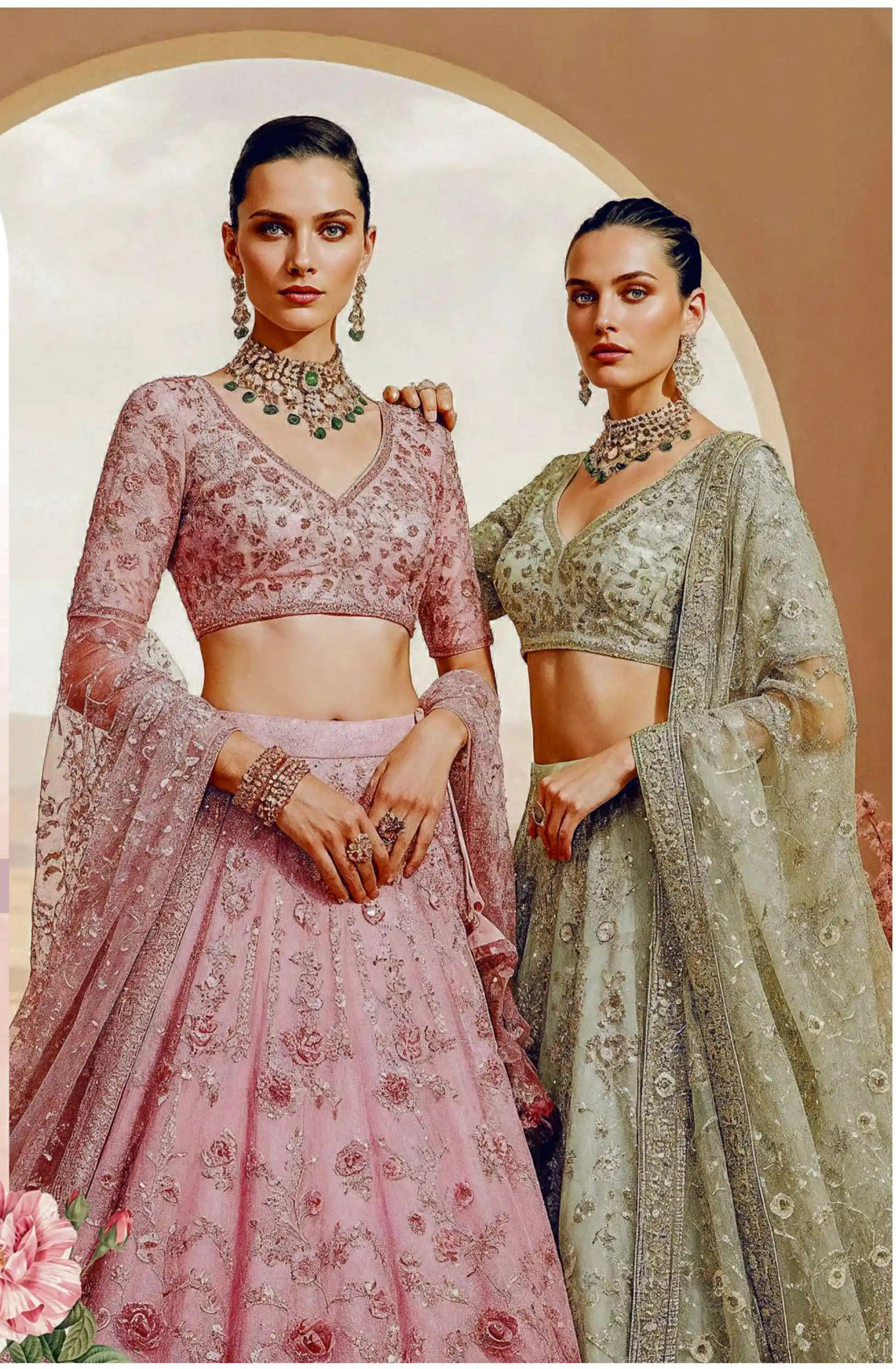


Gowda seeks Bengaluru-Mangaluru industrial corridor

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda on Wednesday urged the central government to establish a Bengaluru-Mangaluru Industrial Corridor to accelerate industrial growth in southern Karnataka.

Participating in the discussion on the Union Budget in the Rajya Sabha, the JD(S) leader welcomed the government's approval of industrial corridor projects linking key ports, including those connecting Chennai-Bengaluru and Hyderabad-Bengaluru.

He proposed extending these corridors from Bengaluru to Mangaluru.

"Setting up a Bengaluru-Mangaluru industrial corridor would greatly facilitate industrial growth," he said.

"Mangaluru is also a major port. Connecting Visakhapatnam, Chennai, and Mangaluru ports would impart transformative momentum to the nation's industrial development," he said.

Additionally, Deve Gowda suggested the creation of a dedicated board —similar to the Makhana Board — to promote jackfruit, tamarind and jamun.

"These crops, widely cultivated in Karnataka as well as in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and other states, possess significant medicinal properties and require relatively less rainfall," he said.

He also appreciated the government's strong support for cash crops such as coconut, sandalwood, cocoa, and cashew, which are predominantly grown in Karnataka's coastal regions and other parts of the country.

Kailash Manasa Sarovara Yatra

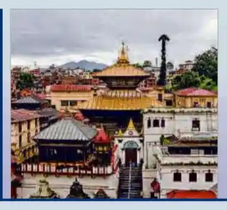
By Helicopter & Flight

✓ NEPALGUNJ – SIMIKOT - NEPALGUNJ BY FLIGHT
✓ SIMIKOT – HILSA - SIMIKOT BY HELICOPTER
✓ CHINA - TIBET PART BY COACH
✓ Tibet Permit & VISA ✓ Vegetarian Food throughout journey

10 ದಿನಗಳು

Dates: MAY 27. JUN 5, 14, 26. JUL 4, 12, 25.
AUG 2, 10, 24. SEP 1, 9, 18, 22.

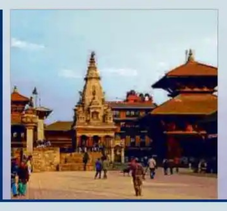
70222 59008

01 
Nepal - Mukthinath – Janakpur
Lumbini, Pokhara, Jomsom, Muktinath, Phewa Lake, Manokamana, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Doleshwar Mahadev, Janakpur etc.
Dates: FEB 26. MAR 12, 26. APR 9, 23. MAY 7, 21. JUN 4, 18. JUL 9, 23. AUG 13, 27. SEP 10, 24. OCT 1, 22, 29. NOV 12, 26.
9 DAYS
70222 59007

02
Bhutan: The Land of Happiness
Phuentsholing, Punakha, Paro, Thimphu
Dates: FEB 26. MAR 12, 26. APR 9, 23. MAY 7, 21. JUN 4, 18. JUL 9, 23. AUG 13, 27. SEP 10, 24. OCT 1, 15, 22, 29. NOV 12, 26. DEC 3, 17.
8 DAYS
70222 59003

03
Naturally Nepal
Lumbini, Pokhara, Phewa Lake, Manokamana, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Doleshwar Mahadev, Royal Chitwan National Park, Janakpur etc.
Dates: FEB 26. MAR 12, 26. APR 9, 23. MAY 1,7, 14. SEP 17, 24. OCT 1, 15, 22, 29. NOV 12, 19, 26. DEC 3, 10, 17.
9 DAYS
93641 04366

04
Kailash Darshan
Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Pokhara, Phewa lake, Manokamana
Dates: MAR 26. APR 23. MAY 28. JUN 25. JUL 23. AUG 20. SEP 24. OCT 29. NOV 26. DEC 17.
3 DAYS
93641 04365

05 
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KIADB introduces premium FAR to allow high-rises in indl plots

Relaxations like setbacks, ground coverage & parking norms approved

BENGALURU, DHNS

High-rise buildings are all set to come up even in the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) allotted industrial plots with the government deciding to relax the floor area ratio (FAR) norms – which deal with total built-up coverage of a building – by 60%.

Given that many of the KIADB plots have been allotted to builders for residential purposes especially in Bengaluru, the FAR of 5.2 is likely to come as a bonanza to the real estate sector.

On top of FAR, the government has approved wide-ranging relaxations including setbacks, ground coverage and parking norms in all layouts developed by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB).

The order, issued on February 6, 2026, seeks to "maximize land use efficiency" and enable industries to expand vertically rather than acquire additional land, in line with the Karnataka Industrial Policy 2025-30.

The government had introduced similar relaxations to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) last year.

The revised regulation for KIADB enhances the permissible FAR – which ranges up to 3.25 depending on plot size and road width, but there is a provision to further increase to a maximum of 5.2 by paying premium charges. For instance: on roads wider than 30 metres, the maximum permissible FAR including premium can go up to 5.2.

Premium FAR is additional buildable area granted on payment of charges over and above the ordinarily permissible FAR.

For instance: on a 10,000 sq m plot with 75% coverage and base FAR of 2.25, a developer can purchase additional 7,500 sq m of built-up area through premium FAR, which is 50% of the allotment value.

Apart from increasing the FAR, the order has reduced setbacks for smaller plots and buildings up to 7 metres height, increased ground coverage up to 75%, relaxed parking norms including exemptions for stilt parking and mechanical parking from FAR calculations as well as relaxed setbacks to allow up to 25% additional FAR in cases where full permissible FAR cannot otherwise be achieved.

Sources in the government described the move as de-regulation of the building norms.

"The new norms will also reduce acquisition of farmland and slow down horizontal growth. Besides promoting vertical development, the move enhances utilization value of the land, lowers capital costs and improves job creation. It is also industries-friendly," they said.

HM: Govt won't allow drug mafia to make K'taka 'another Punjab'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said that the state government will not allow the drug mafia to make Karnataka 'another Punjab'.

Speaking at the launch of a campaign organised by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) to make college campuses and Karnataka drug-free, Parameshwara said, "We aim to make Karnataka a drug-free state. People's cooperation is very important to achieve that g oal."

Appreciating the efforts being made by the university, the minister said that college campuses must be drug-free to build a drug-free state.

"The campaign by RGUHS is an important one. The state government will support it completely," Parameshwara added.

He directed the university to instruct all affiliated colleges to constitute anti-drug committees.

"There are over 1,500 colleges under RGUHS. If any college fails to constitute an anti-drug committee, then measures should be taken to withdraw their affiliation," the minister said.

Home Minister G Parameshwara, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and RGUHS Vice Chancellor Dr Bhagawan B C release the poster of the 'Drug-free Karnataka' campaign in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

He said foreign students are responsible for drugs reaching the state. "The government has kept an eye on foreign students and their activities," he stated.

He revealed that soon advertisements and awareness about drugs and narcotics will be displayed on the government buses.

'More organ retrieval centres'

Speaking at the event, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said that the government is seriously considering increasing the number of organ retrieval centres at the government hospitals.

Vice Chancellor Dr Bhagawan B C requested the government to establish the organ retrieval centres at all government medical college hospitals and also to strengthen those already established.

Recognise Kodava Thakk as a state language: Codava Council

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Codava National Council (CNC) has demanded that the state government recognise 'Kodava Thakk' as a state language.

In a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi, CNC's N U Nachappa Codava stated that the language of Kodavas has a history spanning more than 4,500 years.

"Its antiquity, potentiality and independent characteristics were chronicled by the internationally acclaimed linguist Bishop Robert Caldwell," he said.

He noted that Kodava Thakk was one of the 38 languages proposed for inclusion in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution by the Sitakanta Mohapatra committee. He welcomed the recognition of the Tulu language and urged the government to extend the same to the Kodava Thakk.

18 injured as KSRTC bus crashes into underpass wall near Maddur

MADDUR (MANDYA DISTRICT), DHNS: At least 18 people, including the driver and conductor, were injured when a KSRTC bus rammed against the wall of an underpass on the service road of Mysuru-Bengaluru expressway, near Kodihalli in Maddur taluk of Mandya district on Wednesday.

The bus was bound for Virajpet from Bengaluru when it faced a technical glitch, resulting in the mishap. It is said that the steering got locked and the bus rammed against the wall.

The injured were provided treatment at the taluk hospital in Maddur town. One woman sustained head injuries and was shifted to Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences in Mandya city for treatment.

Following the accident, vehicular movement was disrupted for a while, with vehicles lining up for nearly 1 km. Maddur traffic police rushed to the spot, cleared the vehicle and eased traffic movement. A case has been registered.

The KSRTC bus that rammed into the underpass wall, on the service road of Mysuru-Bengaluru expressway near Kodihalli in Maddur taluk of Mandya district on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

DEFYING GRAVITY

A group of children caught on camera playing football on the Bengre beach in Mangaluru during sunset even as a boy tries the difficult bicycle kick. DH PHOTO/FAKRUDDIN H

Escoms want changes in 2025 tariff order

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bescom and other electricity supply companies (escoms) in the state have filed an amended review petition with the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) seeking a revision of the tariff order of March 2025.

This is the third petition the escoms have filed seeking a decrease in tariff rates for power supplied to agricultural pumpsets and an increase in tariff rates for power supplied to industries and commercial establishments.

The petition requests to decrease the power supply charges for agricultural pumpsets by 95 paisa per unit and to increase the electricity charges for industrial and commercial establishments between ten paisa and Re 1 per unit to make up for the shortfall in revenue of the escoms.

In the tariff order issued by the KERC in March 2025, the tariff for industrial consumers was reduced.

Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) and many other organisations had submitted objections to the proposal, stating that the tariff order cannot be changed unless it is outrightly erroneous.

Now, the amended petition from escoms quotes various cases reported at the Supreme Court and High Court and various sections of the Electricity Act, 2003, to argue that the KERC has the power to change the order issued earlier.

"Section 61(g) of the Electricity Act, 2003 requires the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) to progressively reduce cross-subsidies, thereby acknowledging that the subsidies are permissible and necessary. The Act enables this honourable commission to charge agricultural consumers concessional tariffs, subsidised by higher tariffs from industrial and commercial users," the petition said.

Time will tell everything, says Shivakumar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Wednesday that "time will tell everything," amid his ongoing power tussle with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Shivakumar, in the national capital for the past two days to attend meetings related to the upcoming Assam Assembly polls, was responding to reporters' questions about his brother and former MP D K Suresh's recent statement.

Suresh had said Siddaramaiah would honour the reported power-sharing pact between him and Shivakumar. "Time will tell everything. Only I know what I have discussed with Siddaramaiah in our closed-door meeting. I don't want to talk about this much publicly," Shivakumar said.

He also reportedly sought an appointment with senior Congress leadership, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. However, replying to reporters' queries, Shivakumar denied having sought appointments with top party leaders. The deputy chief minister said he would return to Bengaluru on Thursday afternoon, after attending one more meeting on the Assam elections.

Meeting with Kharge, Venugopal

Shivakumar and Suresh called on Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal here on Wednesday night. The brothers held closed-door discussions with Kharge and Venugopal separately, each lasting around half an hour.

Congress sources told *DH* that neither Kharge nor Venugopal offered any concrete assurance to the brothers. Instead, they reportedly indicated that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would take the final call on the matter. Shivakumar declined to speak to the media on these meetings.

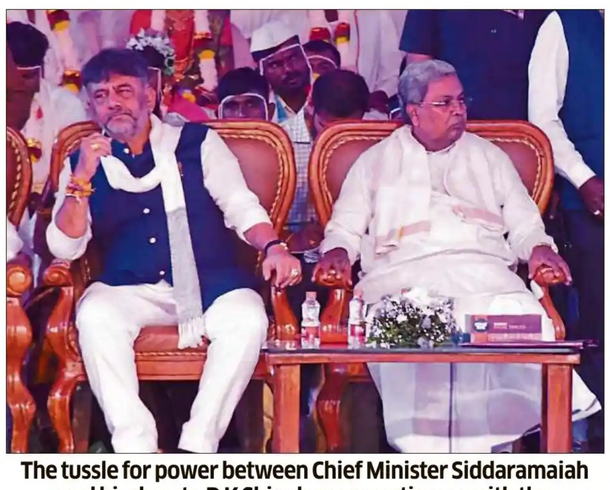
Chief minister loses cool over power-sharing query

Says will abide by high command's decision

BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar landed in Delhi fuelling speculations over the power-transfer talks, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah lost his cool, after reporters asked him about Shivakumar's claim that his talks (power-sharing) with Siddaramaiah were not "secret" but made in the presence of the high command.

"Don't you have anything else to ask? It's been three months since you started repeating the same question. Don't ask me again. The high command knows everything. They will decide and I will go by what the high command says. How many times should I repeat...?," fumed Siddaramaiah, while speaking to reporters in Bengaluru on Wednesday.



The tussle for power between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar continues, with the Congress high command not giving clarity on the issue.

"I will abide by the high command. So should Shivakumar. Don't keep repeating the question over and over again. If he (Shivakumar) has spoken about anything, you'd better ask him about it," said a visibly upset CM, before leaving in a huff.

Former MP D K Suresh, also the younger brother of Shivakumar, told reporters in Bengaluru that he was "confident" that Siddaramaiah would "keep his word" (and step down). "I reiterate that the CM will keep his word. I trust it will happen even if it gets a bit delayed."

When reporters asked what was the need for Shivakumar to meet the party high command if everything was going as per plan, Suresh said, "Meeting the high command is a norm in the Congress party and whenever Shivakumar goes to Delhi, he meets the leaders as it improves the bond. There are many issues related to the party and the constituency that need to be discussed."

With rumours of both camps getting into a huddle in Delhi, or planning to stay put in a resort or fly abroad, to "keep the pressure" on the high command, Congress leaders hope the leadership will intervene and put an end to the guessing game. Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, who identifies with the Siddaramaiah camp, said, "Whatever we all speak is inconsequential. If the people concerned speak up, it gains importance."

Magadi MLA and Shivakumar's aide H C Balakrishna said, "Despite all the good work, the guarantees given by the Congress party, the power-sharing issue will prove to be a major setback for the party in the upcoming elections. I feel the high command should come up with a suitable solution."

MLAs going on Australia-New Zealand study tour

CM: Govt not footing their bills; MLA says minister taking them

BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid the ongoing power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, 25 Congress MLAs, said to be loyal to the chief minister, are set to travel to Australia and New Zealand on an official study tour from February 18 to March 3.

The delegation, led by Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh, comprises C Puttaranga Shetty, Raghavendra Hitnal, H D Thammaiah, Hampanagouda Badarli, B Devendrappa, B M Nagaraja, Yashwantarayagouda Patil, J T Patil, Allamaprabhu Patil, Basavanagouda Daddal, AR Krishnamurthy, N H Konareddi, and Basanagouda Turuvihal, among others. Amid rising frustration among the public over rising prices, a state-funded foreign tour has understandably triggered outrage.

Although the chief minister clarified that it was a private tour that the government was not footing the bill for, the legislators claimed that the visit was being arranged by the Department of Animal Husbandry.

The delegation is expected to return to India before the commencement of the budget session of the state legislature.

"The MLAs are going abroad on a tour by themselves. Can I ask them not to go?" asked Siddaramaiah. Confirming the plan, Congress MLA Puttaranga Shetty said, "We will be going to Australia and New Zealand on a study tour arranged by the Animal Husbandry Department. The minister (Venkatesh) is taking all of us, and we will be back before the start of the budget session."

The legislators have written to the secretariat seeking a no-objection certificate, which is a mandatory requirement for elected representatives travelling abroad.

Amid speculation of the Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar camps taking to 'resort politics' to keep their respective flocks together, the departure of a sizeable number of legislators identified with the chief minister's camp has raised eyebrows.

Meanwhile, Shivakumar has landed in New Delhi after having reminded both the chief minister and the Congress high command about the 'secret' power-sharing pact that the concerned parties agreed to after the victory in the 2023 Legislative Assembly polls.

Budget dilemma: Will Siddaramaiah fund or shun VB G RAM G?

With no alternative, state is at risk of losing Rs 4.8K cr central fund

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Is Chief Minister Siddaramaiah facing a big dilemma even as he prepares to table his 17th state budget in March? With the Centre allocating funds for the new Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) scheme (Rs 95,692 crore nationally) and also the UPA-era MGNREGA (around Rs 30,000 crore), the CM needs to take a tough call on foregoing Central grants of nearly Rs 4,800 crores a year to toe the party line of rejecting the new VB-G RAM G scheme.

The Siddaramaiah government must balance fiscal prudence with political positioning as it prepares the 2026–27 budget. On one hand, it has to provide funds for NREGA, which will be phased out in six months. On the other, it must decide whether to allocate funds for VB-G RAM G, which the Congress has strongly opposed since the Bill was passed in Parliament.

The party, led by Rahul Gandhi, has launched a nationwide protest demanding its repeal, labelling it a "black law" and an "anti-poor" move. The state legislature too has passed a resolution rejecting the new scheme and seeking restoration of MGNREGA.

The year 2026–27 will be a transition phase, when NREGA's pending bills are cleared and incomplete works completed, after which allocations will cease. States will need to frame rules for implementing VB-G RAM G and submit annual work plans and labour budgets to the Union Rural Development Ministry before January 31 each year to avail of Central grants.

Karnataka will have to make budgetary provisions for NREGA while also earmarking funds for VB-G RAM G, as the drought-prone state risks being left without a rural employment scheme to prevent distress migration or create assets across its 6,000-odd gram panchayats.

Finance experts have reportedly advised Karnataka to implement VB-G RAM G "under protest" rather than lose substantial Central assistance.

How much grant will K'taka lose?

By one estimate, with the current NREGA wage rate at Rs 370 per day and material costs adding 40%, the per person-day cost comes to Rs 616. Considering the state's annual target of 13 crore person-days, the total normative allocation would be about Rs 8,000 crore a year, of which the Centre's 60% share would amount to roughly Rs 4,800 crore.

A key shift under the new law is the move from a demand-driven labour budget to a "normative allocation" determined by the Centre. Section 4(5) of the Act empowers the Union government to fix state-wise allocations based on prescribed parameters, while Section 4(6) makes it clear that expenditure beyond this allocation must be borne by the state. State officials confide that even under MGNREGA, states rarely exceeded labour budgets due to limited technical capacity across departments, especially at the gram panchayat level.

The Centre flagged misuse of funds, weak monitoring and poor asset quality under MGNREGA. In 2024–25, alleged misappropriation stood at Rs 193.67 crore nationally, while only 7.61% of households completed the full 100 days of employment.

Defending the old scheme, RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge stated Karnataka was a major beneficiary of NREGA, as works worth Rs 21,411 crore has created 16 lakh assets over the past three years, while providing work to 80.2 lakh households.

Senior government officials are awaiting the Chief Minister's decision. They privately concede that the state may not forego Central support, especially as the exchequer is already strained by the five guarantees, leaving little room for a separate state-funded rural employment programme.

The March budget will ultimately reveal whether Karnataka opts for financial pragmatism or political defiance in its rural employment strategy.

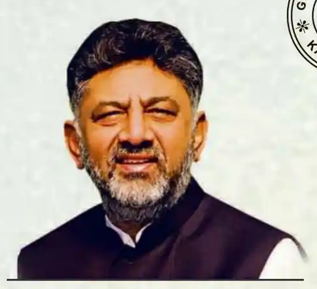
Illegal iron ore transport: Minister orders probe

BENGALURU, DHNS: Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered an inquiry into reports that over 2,500 tonnes of iron ore were illegally transported from a mine belonging to National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).

In a letter to the additional chief secretary of the department, the minister cited media reports stating four persons were arrested and about 2500 tonnes of iron ore were confiscated from two factories.

He said a team of three officials, led by an officer of the additional principal chief conservator of forest grade, should look into the matter comprehensively and submit a report within a week.

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

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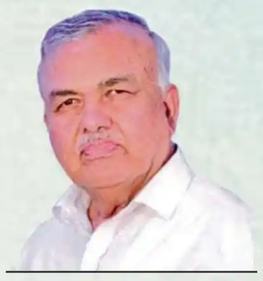

Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Transport & Muzrai,
Government of Karnataka

In accordance with Rule 125 (C) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, all regular buses and sleeper coach buses registered in the State shall mandatorily comply with the provisions to implement the following safety measures :

- AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY STANDARD
- CODE OF PRACTICE FOR BUS BODY DESIGN AND APPROVAL AIS-052/AIS-153
- REQUIREMENTS FOR SLEEPER COACH BUSES AIS-119
- PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

01 The partition door installed behind the driver in all sleeper coach buses registered in the State shall be removed

02 Sliders fitted to sleeper berths in all sleeper coach buses shall be removed

03 All sleeper coach buses registered on or after 01-04-2019 shall be equipped with a Fire Detection and Suppression System (FDSS)

04 In contravention of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Rules made there under transportation of commercial goods in passenger buses including sleeper coach buses is strictly prohibited

05 Operation of buses constructed by unauthorized extension of chassis shall be discontinued forthwith

06 Every bus shall have a design layout drawing indicating emergency exits location of fire extinguishers, and roof hatches affixed inside the vehicle at a place easily visible and readable to passengers

07 As per the standards prescribed under Bus Body Code AIS:119, Buses up to 12 metres in length shall have a minimum of four (4) emergency exits and Buses exceeding 12 metres in length shall have a minimum of five (5) emergency exits

08 In buses constructed with body structure conforming to AIS:052 and AIS:119, luggage carriers provided on the roof and ladders shall be removed

09 All sleeper coach buses shall be fitted with fire extinguishers of minimum capacity of 10 kilograms

10 Bus body building agencies shall possess a valid certificate under Rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and only vehicles manufactured by such certified agencies shall be registered

11 Vehicles will be registered only after verification of the certificate forms 22 and 22A issued by the approved testing agencies

It is hereby notified that failure to comply with the above directions on or before 28-02-2026 shall attract strict action under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Rules framed thereunder against the vehicle owners concerned.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Transport & Road Safety

SC seeks report from Centre on AI plane crash probe protocol

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court asked the Centre on Wednesday to file a brief report on the "procedural protocol" followed so far, after it was informed that the investigation into the June 12, 2025, Air India plane crash by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) is at its fag end.

Air India's Boeing 787-8 flight AI171, en route to London's Gatwick airport, crashed after the plane took off from Gujarat's Ahmedabad, killing 260 people, including 241 passengers and crew on board.

On Wednesday, a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared in the court representing the Centre and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), that the AAIB probe is in its final stages and some parts need to be carried out in foreign countries.

The top law officer said three related pleas on the matter may be listed after three weeks for a comprehensive hearing.

The bench was initially of the view that the AAIB inquiry report be submitted to it in a sealed cover. Mehta assured the judges that the details of the inquiry would be shared with them. It said the AAIB's role is to determine the cause of the crash and not to impute motive.

The bench asked the Centre to file a report on the procedural protocol followed so far in the probe.

"Let us see the result of the AAIB probe, and then we will see whether a court of inquiry will be needed or not," the CJI said and fixed the three pleas for hearing after three weeks.

Top court slams NIA's use of UAPA in Bengal violence probe

Says every emotional outburst not economic security threat

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that every emotional outburst cannot be packaged as a threat to economic security, as it questioned the basis on which the National Investigation Agency (NIA) invoked provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) to justify its probe into the recent violence in West Bengal's Beldanga.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, however, directed the West Bengal government to raise its contention before the Calcutta High Court, which had permitted the Centre to deploy central armed forces following violent unrest in Beldanga, Murshidabad, in mid-January. The disturbance had led to incidents of arson and damage to public property.

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the NIA, contended that there was a strong basis for the investigation.

He argued that the area lies along a porous border with Bangladesh, where violence had erupted and deadly weapons were used. He added that while the NIA is conducting an independent investigation, the state government was not handing over the probe papers. He urged the court to direct the state to provide the documents.

Opposing the plea, counsel for the West Bengal government said, "Only in West Bengal is the NIA active."

The SC said, "Every emotional outburst cannot be packaged as a threat to economic security." The court noted that, with reference to an earlier attack in April last year, a division bench of the HC had directed the NIA to consider a probe, but the agency "slept over it".

"What was the necessity for the NIA, without even examining the records, to initiate this FIR or exercise its power? We are not making any comment, it is for the HC to examine," the bench said.

BELDANGA UNREST

- SC says Calcutta HC should resolve issue after examining NIA's sealed-cover report
- HC had allowed deployment of central forces after unrest in Beldanga
- NIA claimed strong basis for probe; cited porous Bangladesh border
- SC says NIA "slept over" an earlier HC directive in April last year

The NIA claimed that the violence had affected the economic security of India and therefore amounted to a terrorist act under Section 15 of the UAPA.

Another counsel argued that the HC had directed the NIA to take a decision. "Actually, it is an economically strategic highway, and therefore it was blocked," the counsel said.

Sealed cover

The SC said that it would be best if the Calcutta High Court resolved the issue after examining the NIA's position in a report to be submitted in a sealed cover.

On January 20, the HC had permitted the deployment of central forces following two public interest litigation petitions filed by Suvendu Adhikari, the Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal, and a resident of Beldanga.

Both petitions sought an NIA investigation and the deployment of central forces in response to incidents of communal violence, arson and destruction of public and private property in Murshidabad and adjoining border areas.

Assam BJP axes social media co-convenor after AI video row

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Facing backlash and a police complaint from the Opposition Congress over an AI-generated video that showed Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma shooting at two Muslims, the ruling BJP in poll-bound Assam on Wednesday removed one of the co-convenors of its social media team for the "unauthorised act".

Ron Bikash Gaurav was removed from the party for uploading the video on its social media handle recently without senior leaders' "knowledge and permission".

The video was uploaded on February 7 but was removed next day after it triggered a controversy.

It showed Sarma pointing a rifle at two Muslim men, one of them resembling Assam Pradesh Congress Committee chief Gaurav Gogoi, in skullcaps.

Sarma, when asked by journalists about the upload, said he was not aware of any such video.

On Tuesday, the Congress lodged an FIR seeking action and the immediate arrest of Sarma over the video.

The video led several lawyers and activists to move the Supreme Court as they sought action against Sarma.

MAYORAL MANTLE

Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde greets the gathering at Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation headquarters on Wednesday. Ritu was elected as the 78th mayor of Mumbai, while Shiv Sena's Sanjay Ghadi was elected as deputy mayor. The BMC is India's largest and richest civic corporation, whose budget for 2025-26 stood at more than Rs 74,400 crore. PTI

Examined 24 times, Wangchuk is fit: Centre to SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government on Wednesday claimed before the Supreme Court that activist Sonam Wangchuk, detained under the National Security Act (NSA), had been medically examined 24 times in detention. It told the apex court that he was "fit, hale, and hearty".

The court, however, questioned the grounds for Wangchuk's detention under the NSA, observing that the Central government was reading "too much" into his remarks.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Prasanna B Varale was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that yhe grounds on which Wangchuk's detention order was passed continued to operate, and that it would not be possible to release him on health grounds.

"We have examined his health periodically 24 times. He is fit, hale and hearty. He had some digestive issues; he is being treated. There is nothing to worry, nothing alarming. We can't make exceptions like this," said Mehta, adding that such a step might not be desirable either.

Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, also representing the Central government, submitted that Wangchuk was the chief provocateur in violent protests, claiming that he instigated youths by giving examples of Nepal and the Arab Spring.

The bench, however, asked, "Where does he say that? He is saying they (the youth) have taken it. He himself is surprised."

The counsel said that the statement had to be inferred. "Please come to the next ground. He says the deployment of armed forces in Ladakh is unfortunate. He says youth say peaceful methods have not proved effective," said Nataraj.

SUPREME COURT

"He (Sonam Wangchuk) is saying that the youth is saying that. Read the complete sentence. He is saying this is something worrying. If somebody expresses that violent method is not the proper way. You are doing too much of reading.

The bench, however, pointed out: "He is saying that the youth is saying that. Read the complete sentence. He is saying this is something worrying. If somebody expresses that a violent method is not the proper way, you are doing too much of reading."

The court also asked how Wangchuk's previous statements were linked to the violence that broke out in Leh last year.

Nataraj said the situation in Ladakh was fragile, and would have become worse if preventive action had not been taken.

The bench, however, pointed out: "He is worried. We will have to take the entire sentence...read it... 'Some people are abandoning Gandhian peaceful ways. This is worrying'... The focus is departure from the non-violent way, departure is something worrying..."

The court will continue to hear on Thursday a habeas corpus petition filed by Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali Angmo to declare his detention under the NSA illegal.

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FORM NO. INC-26
[Pursuant to Rule 30 of Companies (Incorporation) Rules 2014]
Before the Central Government Regional Director, South East Region Bench, Hyderabad
In the matter of section 13 (4) of the Companies Act 2013 and clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules 2014
AND
In the matter of
M/S ZANSKAR SECURITIES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN NO: U64199KA2023PTC175635) having its Registered Office at Cabin 1, 4th Floor (Left Wing), Raheja Point, 17/2, Magarath Road, Ashok Nagar, Opp. Garuda Mall, CMP Centre And School, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560025
.....Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to General Public that the company proposes to make the application to the Central Government/ Regional Director, South East Region, Hyderabad under section 13 of the Companies Act 2013, seeking confirmation of alteration of Memorandum of Association of the company in terms the of special resolution passed at Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on Thursday, 29TH January, 2026 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Karnataka" to "State of Gujarat".
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change, may deliver either on **MCA portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filling investor complaint** form or cause to be deliver or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and ground of opposition to **the Regional Director at the Address 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad - 500068, Telangana,** within 14 Days of date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:
ADDRESS OF REGISTERED OFFICE:
Cabin 1, 4th Floor (Left Wing), Raheja Point, 17/2, Magarath Road, Ashok Nagar, Opp. Garuda Mall, CMP Centre And School, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India- 560025
For and on behalf of the applicant
Sd-
Vandana Jain
Director
DIN: 10021030

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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JOB
To Place your Classified Ads Contact: 9886213331

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Veena Bhoj** and **Veena M Bhoj** Residing at Flat No. 3288, Building-1 Tower-3, Prestige Jindal City, Manjunatha Nagar, Bengaluru-560073, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **VEENA M BHOJ** vide affidavit dated 10.02.2026 before notary G.B. Turamari, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VANI GIRISH KOTHA,** residing at No.E-117, Prestige Ozone, Whitefield, Bangalore-66, have changed my name to **K S VANI** vide affidavit dated 10-02-2026 before notary B. Hanumantharaya, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **K S VANI** only

I, SILPALEKHYA LINGAM. W/o. Ravindranath Reddy Lingam,R/a#A163 16th Floor, A.Block Disha Pursuit of Sunshine, Budigere Road,Mandur Bangalore 560049 have`changed my Name to SILPALEKHYA DUTTA vide`affidavit dated:05.2.2026 before`Notary C.Sasikala Bangalore.

Telangana urban polls end amid Oppn claims of Cong misconduct

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Polling in Telangana's municipal elections recorded a 73.01% turnout by 5 pm on Wednesday. Election officials reported smooth proceedings across all municipalities with steady voter participation and no major incidents, though Opposition parties alleged high-handedness by ruling Congress members. Adequate security ensured peaceful voting statewide.

Around 2,996 wards across 116 municipalities and seven municipal corporations went to the polls. Counting will take place on Friday. While Congress aimed to replicate its 2023 Assembly poll success, BRS fought to retain its urban base, and BJP sought a strong presence, especially in north Telangana.

BJP state president N Ramchander Rao accused Congress of fearing political erosion and resorting to atrocities. In Makthal, he claimed Congress unleashed threats, power misuse, and violence against BJP workers to assert dominance amid defeat fears.

Rafale a 'buzzword', IAF seeks more modern fighters

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is keen to induct "a lot more" newer-generation aircraft into its fleet "the sooner, the better", Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor said on Wednesday, as the force looks to strengthen its combat capabilities.

Speaking at a press conference ahead of Exercise Vayu Shakti, Kapoor was asked whether the IAF plans to induct more Rafale jets, given their key role during Operation Sindoor. He described Rafale as a "buzzword" and said it was "a hero among other heroes" in the operation.

"The IAF is looking to induct a lot more MRFA aircraft. Whether that will be Rafale or any other aircraft is under consideration. A concrete decision has not yet been taken," he said. MRFA refers to multi-role fighter aircraft.

Reiterating the need for modernisation, Kapoor said the force is focused on inducting more advanced platforms at the earliest.

Exercise Vayu Shakti, scheduled to be held at the Pokharan range near the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan on February 27, will showcase the IAF's full spectrum of combat and firepower capabilities. The drill will also highlight the success of Operation Sindoor and the force's ability to "rapidly punish the enemy" and dominate the operational environment.

More than 120 air assets will participate in the exercise, including 77 fighter jets such as Rafale, Su-30MKI, MiG-29, LCA Tejas, Jaguar and Mirage-2000. Helicopters, including Apache, Chinook, LCH Prachand and ALH, and eight transport aircraft will also take part, with the C-295 making its debut.

In the 2024 edition of Vayu Shakti, Rafale, LCH Prachand and Apache helicopters participated for the first time. Manufactured by France's Dassault Aviation, Rafale was inducted into the IAF beginning in July 2020. India currently operates two Rafale squadrons — No. 17 'Golden Arrows' at Ambala, Haryana and No. 101 'Falcons' at Hasimara, West Bengal.

Ladakh talks end without discussion on statehood draft

SRINAGAR, DHNS: The nearly six-year-long agitation in Ladakh for constitutional safeguards shows little sign of resolution, with the latest round of talks between the Centre and Ladakh representatives ending without any discussion on their joint draft proposal seeking statehood and Sixth Schedule status.

Leh Apex Body (LAB) co-chairman Chering Dorjay Lakrook said that during the recent meeting with the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi, no discussion was held on the draft proposal jointly submitted by the LAB and the Kargil Democratic Alliance.

"Instead, the government repeatedly highlighted certain 'disadvantages' of the Sixth Schedule and statehood, which are factually incorrect," Lakrook alleged, adding that no alternative proposal was placed before the Ladakh delegation.

The stalemate comes against the backdrop of a sustained agitation that began after Ladakh was carved out as a separate UT without a legislature in August 2019.

GREEN LEGACY

Meghalaya's living bridges and their architect

SUJAY B M
SHILLONG, DHNS

Navigating the dark, dense forests of Meghalaya's Cherrapunji by foot amid the notoriously wild monsoon rains is nearly impossible. The region — locally called Sohra — is amongst the wettest in India, with an average rainfall of around 11,600 mm per year.

As residents of the Siej village in the East Khasi Hill district struggled for transport, young Hally War began mastering the art of binding roots to construct a bridge. Little did he know that this expertise would, decades later, fetch him a Padma Shri.

The art of building root bridges was passed on across generations in War's family. As a boy aged around 10 years, he saw the elders in his family develop bridges through roots — famously called the "living root bridges of Meghalaya".

He hails from the Khasi community,

Hally War

one of the three major tribes of Meghalaya — the other two being Garo and Jaintia.

Over time, he picked up the skill of pulling roots, binding them together, and forming a bridge. The work is tedious and takes around 45-50 years.

The result of his persistent effort was the Umkar living root bridge, built by binding the roots of the Ficus Elastica tree (Rubber Fig tree).

The remarkably sturdy bridge can withstand the weight of 25-30 people at one go, with War's remarkable skill ensuring that some parts also provide support where walkers can rest their hands on each side of the bridge.

Though the root bridge now has a concrete counterpart, for decades it was the only way for Siej residents to pass through the forest. The region also has two other bridges built by War's ancestors.

Metres away, atop a small hill and surrounded by lush greenery is War's house, where he stays with his wife Philoris Khyllep and the rest of his family, including his four children — a daughter, son Willingson, and his two brothers.

For years, his skill and service went unrecognised. However, things changed around a decade ago, when tourists popularised his work.

War was overjoyed when his name featured in the Union government's list of Padma Awards. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma also visited his place recently.

"I thank God, the central and state governments for this honour," said War, now in his 60s.

Willingson explained that his father was teaching his skills to other youngsters, thereby ensuring that the age-old abilities of the Khasi community were passed on to posterity.

BUDGET DEBATE: Cong leader calls India-US pact betrayal of farmers, sparks uproar in LS

'Wholesale surrender': Rahul slams trade deal

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday mounted a trenchant critique of the India-US interim trade deal, dubbing it a "wholesale surrender" by the Narendra Modi government that has allowed the US to "weaponise our finance and energy against us" and compromise the interests of India's farmers.

Accusing the government of "surrendering" the interests of Indian farmers, the textile industry, and the energy sector, Rahul called the rise in trade volume with the US from $46 billion to $146 billion "absolutely absurd". The Leader of the Opposition finally participated in the Lok Sabha's budget discussions after several run-ins with the government.

"This is a wholesale surrender. It is a tragedy because he has surrendered the future (of Indians) to protect the BJP's financial architecture, on which there is a case in the US," Rahul alleged, leading to an uproar from the treasury benches.

During his address, Rahul was interrupted by Speaker Jagdambika Pal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who objected to parts of his remarks. Rahul linked some ministers in the Modi Cabinet to the Epstein Files, prompting the chair and Rijiju to demand authentication. While Rahul offered to provide it, the Speaker asked him to follow parliamentary procedures.

Calling India's 1.4 billion people and the vast data pool they represent the country's biggest asset, Rahul said this should be part of the trade negotiations. "If we, the I.N.D.I.A alliance, were negotiating with the US, we would tell the Americans that if they want to remain a superpower, the key is Indian data. We would tell President Trump that if you want access to that, then talk to us as equals, not as servants," Rahul said. We will go there as equals; we will not be made equal to Pakistan."

Accusing the government of giving up control over India's digital trade routes, he said data is the nation's most valuable asset. "No need for localisation. Free data flow to the US. Limits on digital tax. No need to disclose source code. A 20-year free tax holiday," he alleged, detailing the contours of the trade deal's data segment.

Rahul said the textile sector, the energy sector and farmers of certain crops would be severely affected by the deal. "Textile businesses in India will have to compete with Bangladesh, which will enjoy zero tariffs. In the energy sector, the US will dictate that we cannot buy oil from Russia or Iran, and they will monitor it," he said.

LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi speaks during the Budget session. PTI

BJP plans privilege motion

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday said that the BJP Parliamentary Party was initiating a privilege notice against Rahul Gandhi for his utterances during the Budget speech in the Lok Sabha. Rijiju said that the notice would be filed against Rahul for "misleading the House" and "making baseless statements".

From left: Suspended Lok Sabha MPs Prashant Padole, Dean Kuriakose, Manickam Tagore, and Hibi Eden stage a protest during the Budget session of Parliament on Wednesday. PTI

Met Epstein 3-4 times: Puri rejects Rahul's charges

NEW DELHI, PTI: Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for "passing innuendo" against him, asserting that he had met Jeffrey Epstein on a "few occasions" but his interactions with him had nothing to do with the crimes the convicted American sex offender was involved in.

Puri's clarification came after Rahul claimed that the Union minister's name has also figured in the 'Epstein Files' released in the US.

Addressing a press conference here, Puri said, "After I resigned as India's ambassador to the UN, I was invited to join the International Peace Institute (IPI) a few months later. I was not part of the IPI per se. I was secretary general of the Independent Commission (ICM) on Multilateralism, set up in the IPI as a project."

"My boss in the IPI, Terje Rod-Larsen, was the person who knew this particular infamous person Mr Epstein and it is as part of a delegation of the IPI or the ICM that I met Mr Epstein on a few occasions, three or maximum four," he added.

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri at a press conference in New Delhi. PTI

Puri said the ICM was dealing with international and thematic issues and Epstein was not part of it.

Puri said that he had apprised Rahul about this by sending him a "note" last year.

"On the Samvidhan Divas on November 26 last year, I was there at the central hall of the old Parliament building. After the event (organised to mark Samvidhan Divas) concluded, he (Rahul Gandhi) came up to me and winked at me in his style," Puri said.

"I was also amused... He said 'your name is in interesting places'. I asked him do you want to know what the facts are? Do you want a note on it? So I sent him a note," the minister added.

He accused Rahul of indulging in "buffoonery" now and told the reporters, "This innuendo and smear campaign has given me a privilege and the opportunity to talk to you and place the facts before you."

He cited an e-mail between Larsen and Jeffrey Epstein and said, "Epstein here refers to me as two-faced... I was certainly not good in their value system because they were dealing in something else."

"Rahul should have read it," he added.

Sitharaman fires back, recalls UPA's WTO 'surrender'

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday hit back at Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, saying he was advising the government on how to conduct negotiations even though the Congress-led UPA government had "surrendered" before the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2013, selling the farmers, the poor, and the country.

In her nearly 90-minute reply to the general discussion on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha, she also targeted the Trinamool Congress-led government in West Bengal and the CPM government in Kerala, where polls are due, accusing them of misgovernance while insisting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will always speak in India's interest.

Hours after Rahul accused the Modi government of "selling the country" through the IndoUS trade deal, Sitharaman said the LoP would not have made such remarks about weaponisation of finance or the absence of provisions for data, food and energy security if he had read the budget.

"He spoke about selling farmers... I will tell you who has surrendered the country's interests and sold the country. At the Bali conference of the WTO in 2013, the Congress government entered into an agreement that there would be no public holding of food grains," she said.

This, she added, meant that from 2017 the government could not procure agricultural produce from farmers at the minimum support price, and the poor would not be able to receive ration.

She also debunked Opposition claims that the union government was not transferring 41% of the divisible pool of taxes to the states. She said she can assure that 41% has been transferred to the states and the government has not reduced any state's devolvable tax.

Seeking to counter allegations from TMC MPs, she said several projects had been announced for eastern India and urged West Bengal to make efforts to secure them.

CHARGES & COUNTER

- FM says Rahul's charges show he hasn't read the budget
- Claims Cong agreed to stop public holding of food grains, undermining MSP
- Accuses TMC in Bengal and Left in Kerala of misgovernance

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
Finance Minister

"Abhishek Banerjee even mentioned that an individual is charged GST even after his death... There was never any GST on funeral services in the first place. Maybe it's the syndicate running in West Bengal, which will be charging cut money on death.

MP flags social media impact on adolescents

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Expressing concern over social media's impact on the mental health of adolescents, Congress Rajya Sabha member Jebi Mather Hisham on Wednesday said the matter needs serious attention by the government.

Raising the issue in the Rajya Sabha during the Zero Hour, Hisham referred to an incident from Chottanikkara, near Kochi, where a 16-year-old girl allegedly died by suicide as she was under grief following the death of an online friend.

The MP said she spoke with her teacher and principal this morning, and they shared the concern about how social media is influencing youth and adolescents.

"They share the concern that the children, these adolescents and youth, are not able to identify the reality and the fantasy world. They'll create a virtual world, influenced by social media, and especially they share the concern of this Korean content, online games, and pop that is available in the country now," Hisham said.

She also referred to the alleged suicides of three sisters in Ghaziabad, who had a link with Korean content.

"So all these triggered me to think that the children who should be playing and laughing and learning and acquiring skills from school and teachers while they are taking such extreme steps of suicide," the MP from Kerala said.

Naravane book leak case: Police add conspiracy charges

NEW DELHI, PTI: Delhi Police has added criminal conspiracy charges to its probe into the alleged circulation of former Army chief General M M Naravane's unpublished book, an official said on Wednesday.

It also issued a notice to publisher of the memoir, Penguin Random House India, seeking clarification on the leak.

The case, being investigated by the Special Cell of Delhi Police, pertains to the alleged unauthorised circulation of the book's PDF version on social media and other online platforms prior to its publication.

A senior police officer said the investigation is now focused on ascertaining whether there was a criminal conspiracy behind the alleged leak and subsequent dissemination of the manuscript across digital platforms.

"Delhi Police Special Cell has issued a notice to Penguin Random House India. Through the notice, several questions have been asked, and detailed responses have been sought, including how the unpublished manuscript was allegedly leaked," the officer said.

According to police, online posts and media reports have claimed that a preprint version of the book was being shared online despite it not being granted the mandatory clearances required for publication.

Full Vande Mataram must at all official events

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Vande Mataram will be sung in full at all official functions and before the National Anthem if the two are to be played together, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has said in the first set of protocols for singing the National Song.

So far, only the first two stanzas were sung, as per a decision taken by the Congress in the pre-independence era and later announced in the Constituent Assembly following objections from a section of people over the "communal" references in the song.

In its January 28 order, the MHA said the official version, comprising all six stanzas, shall be sung at official functions such as the arrival and departure of the President and Governors at government functions, before and after the President addresses the nation over All India Radio and television, and during the unfurling of the tricolour.

The playing time of the official version of the National Song is approximately 3 minutes and 10 seconds, and whenever it is sung or played, the audience should stand at attention.

However, the protocol said the audience is not expected to stand when the National Song is played as part of a newsreel, documentary or film, as it is bound to interrupt the exhibition of the film and would "create disorder and confusion rather than add to the dignity" of the National Song.

"When the National Song and the National Anthem are sung or played, the National Song will be sung or played first," the order said. It comes as the Union government is observing the 150th year of Vande Mataram.

It said the day's work in schools may begin with the community singing of 'Vande Mataram', and school authorities should make adequate provision in their programmes for popularising the singing of the National Song and the National Anthem, and for promoting respect for the national flag among students.

"The National Song may be sung on occasions which, although not strictly ceremonial, are nevertheless invested with significance because of the presence of Ministers, etc. The singing of the National Song on such occasions (with or without the accompaniment of instruments), accompanied by mass singing, is desirable," it said.

NEW RULES

- Vande Mataram to precede National Anthem at all official events
- All six stanzas to be sung; earlier only two were used
- Audience must stand at attention during the 3-minute-10-second song
- Schools to begin with playing of National Song

Stalin rules out coalition govt in TN, reaffirms alliance with Congress

Cong wants DMK to share power if they win elections

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Rejecting the Congress' demand for a share in power, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday said that a coalition government would not work in the state, while asserting that the DMK's long-standing alliance with the national party will continue for the 2026 Assembly polls.

At the same time, Stalin spoke of his "excellent" rapport with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, saying that their "family-like ties" extend beyond politics.

The DMK chief's remarks are not surprising, as Dravidian parties have been averse to sharing power with their pre-poll alliance partners.

CM MK Stalin during a training conference for polling station agents ahead of the Assembly polls at Thiruvidanthai. PTI

An experiment by the DMK and Congress to contest almost an equal number of the 234 Assembly seats, promising a coalition government if voted to power, failed miserably. Since then, the DMK has never come close to sharing power, even though it ran a minority government with outside support from the Congress between 2006 and 2011.

"It will not work in Tamil Nadu. We know that, and they (Congress) also know it well," Stalin said at a media event, when asked about the demand for power-sharing. "Some people with ulterior motives are attempting to disturb the alliance. Neither we (DMK) nor they (Congress) are worried about this," the CM added.

On Rahul, Stalin said the Congress leader considers him his "elder brother", while he regards Rahul as his "younger brother". "This is beyond politics. He (Rahul) considers me one among his family, and I too consider him the same."

The Congress has been demanding that the DMK share power if the alliance returns to office after the April-May Assembly elections. The demand has upset the DMK, which is still dithering to constitute a panel to begin seat-sharing talks with allies.

Stalin's statement effectively ends the Congress' hopes of enjoying power, at least for now, six decades after the party was ousted by the DMK in 1967.

Though state chief K Selvaperunthagai said Stalin had the right to express his party's views, Congress whip in the Lok Sabha, Manickam Tagore, posted on X that the people of Tamil Nadu will decide whether the state should have a coalition or single-party government.

AAP's Chadha calls for 'Right to Recall' legislators

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Advocating for the introduction of a 'Right to Recall' mechanism in India, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Wednesday said that this would encourage political parties to field stronger candidates, boost overall accountability, and reduce corruption.

Raghav Chadha

He argued that voters should have the authority to remove elected representatives, such as MPs and MLAs, mid-term if they fail to perform or engage in misconduct, rather than waiting for the full five-year term to end.

Speaking during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Chadha highlighted that while Indian citizens constitutionally hold the right to elect their representatives, no direct mechanism currently exists for voters to "de-elect" them prematurely due to non-performance or wrongdoing.

Chadha noted that more than 20 democracies worldwide, including the US and Switzerland, already have some form of voter-initiated removal system at various government levels.

Cong woos VS aide for CPM fort fight

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

In a bid to wrest the CPM stronghold of Malampuzha in Palakkad — once represented by former chief minister VS Achuthanandan — the Congress in Kerala is wooing Achuthanandan's former personal assistant Suresh Kumar to contest as the United Democratic Front candidate. Kumar told sections of the media that some Congress leaders had approached him, though he was yet to make a decision.

The Congress' fresh moves come amid reports that the CPM may field Achuthanandan's son Arunkumar in Malampuzha.

Kumar had been Achuthanandan's close aide for many years, including during his tenure as CM from 2006 to 2011. He was expelled from the CPM in 2012 on charges of leaking confidential party documents to the media, a move seen at the time as an attempt by the faction led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to corner his then bete noire, Achuthanandan.

Kumar said that he continues to be a communist and would not compromise on that. He added that he has repeatedly urged the party to revoke his expulsion.

Achuthanandan represented Malampuzha for two decades, from 2001 to 2021, winning four successive elections. So far, only communist party candidates have won from Malampuzha.

Even as the Centre recently selected Achuthanandan for the Padma Vibhushan award, his family declined to accept it in line with the party's stand against such honours.

Meanwhile, Congress MP and former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president K Sudhakaran said on Tuesday that he had conveyed to the party leadership his desire to contest the upcoming Assembly polls.

Sudhakaran's open statement came soon after reports that the Congress leadership had reached a consensus that sitting MPs should not contest elections. Several other MPs are also believed to be keen on contesting, as the Congress is hopeful of returning to power in Kerala.

POLL PLANS

- Suresh Kumar, former PA of Achuthanandan, says Cong approached him, but decision pending
- Kumar was expelled from CPM in 2012
- Achuthanandan held Malampuzha seat for two decades (2001-2021)

In a first since 2023, Manipur CM visits Meitei, Hmar relief camps

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Nearly three years after the Meitei-Kuki conflict erupted in Manipur, newly appointed Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Wednesday visited two relief camps, one each of the Meitei and Hmar communities, urging them to forget the "nightmares" and move towards peace and development.

This was the first visit by a CM to the relief camps of both communities since the conflict started on May 3, 2023.

"Let us consider that the last two years were a nightmare; let us forget it and have the courage to move forward towards peace and development," Khemchand said to inmates of the Hmar community taking shelter at Kalinagar in Jiribam district. Hmars belong to the greater Kuki-Zo community.

CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh with a Hmar displaced person in Jiribam.

He then visited Jarolpokpi Hmar village, which had experienced large-scale violence in 2023. Earlier, the CM visited the relief camp housing Meitei displaced persons at the Jiribam Higher Secondary School campus, where he interacted with the inmates. Jiribam, bordering Assam, had witnessed large-scale violence in 2023 and November 2024.

"I feel someone is trying to destroy the concept of Manipuri. First, we are Indian, and then we are Manipuri. ...We need to rebuild the concept of Manipuri," he said.

4 Andhra ministers receive threat letters

HYDERABAD, DHNS: At least four Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Ministers, Anagani Satya Prasad, Kandula Durgesh, Satya Kumar Yadav, and Kollu Ravindra, received threat letters via post, purportedly stating their lives and those of their family members were in danger as outlawed Maoists are trying to kill them.

While the full content of the letters remains undisclosed, police registered cases based on complaints from the ministers' staff and are investigating their authenticity. Security has been beefed up for the ministers.

Responding to the incident, Kandula Durgesh said that neither personally nor in the concerned ministry had they committed any mistakes. He said that someone must have deliberately written these letters.

Noting that his family members were anxious due to the letter, Durgesh said the truth would come out through the police investigation. Officials have also become alert to security matters concerning ministers.

There has been heightened tension in Naxal-affected states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh ever since security forces launched 'Operation Kagar' to eliminate Naxalism from India and set a deadline of March 31.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A renewed peace test in Manipur

By installing a government in strife-torn Manipur, after a year of President's rule in the state, the Centre appears to have navigated a crisis point. An extension of the rule, imposed after N Biren Singh resigned as chief minister on February 9 last year, would have required Constitutional clearances. The past year did not take Manipur any closer to absolute normalcy. Violence erupted many times – the killing of a Meitei man who was visiting his Kuki wife in the Kuki-dominated Churachandpur last month points to persisting distrust and hostility between the two dominant communities. Most of the over 60,000 people displaced during the violence that started in May 2023 are still in rehabilitation camps. It is reported that a large portion of the arms looted from government armouries or police stations are still in circulation.

The new government under Yumnam Khemchand Singh, a senior Meitei leader of the BJP, was sworn in last week with two deputy chief ministers – Nemcha Kipgen, from the Kuki community, and Losii Dikho, from the Naga People's Front (NPF), an ally of the BJP. The arrangement is intended to provide representation in the government to all three major communities of the state. Former chief minister Biren Singh had made his bias for the Meitei community clear before and during the unrest, aggravating the crisis. Khemchand Singh has sent out signals that he wants reconciliation between all the communities. He was among those in the party who wanted a change of leadership when Biren Singh was at the helm. In December, he visited a Kuki relief camp in the Naga-dominated Ukhrul district. For the party, he was a consensus choice to lead the state.

The popular government must initiate concerted efforts to rebuild trust between divided communities

As the new government takes charge, its primary task will be to establish trust between the two major communities. It will take more than symbolic gestures, such as fair representation in the government or public declarations of unbiased rehabilitation policies. The state remains divided along the lines of community; members of one do not enter areas controlled by the other. It is to be noted that many of the issues that triggered the conflict remain. Kuki organisations have stuck to their demand for a separate administrative unit. The Kuki-Zo Council has even warned MLAs of the community against joining the government, signalling a major challenge for the new dispensation. Only a political resolution can bring in lasting peace and normalcy. The presence of a democratic administrative structure is a start that needs to be built on with real intent.

Saving students takes more than helplines

The statistic should shame any society into urgent action: 855 students ended their lives in Karnataka in 2023. Against this grim backdrop, the government's move to roll out a dedicated student suicide prevention policy is welcome. It signals a long-overdue acknowledgement that student suicides are not isolated tragedies but a systemic failure that demands a coordinated, State-led response. The policy's primary strength lies in its comprehensive approach, covering students across both government-run and private institutions. The mentor-parent-teacher initiative, where a single teacher is assigned responsibility for up to 25 students, is particularly significant. If implemented with sincerity, it can humanise rigid institutions and create early-warning systems in which students feel seen, heard, and supported. Regular counselling, multi-departmental coordination, and targeted interventions are imperative in hostels where homesickness and psychological stress are acute.

Importantly, the policy aligns with the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, which aims to reduce suicide mortality by 10% by 2030 through multi-sectoral action and integration of mental health into primary healthcare. Yet this is also where discomfort begins. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has set a far steeper benchmark: a one-third reduction in suicide rates by 2030. A conservative national target risks leading states to settle for slower progress rather than radical reform. Governments justify this caution by pointing to hard constraints. The country faces a severe resource crunch, with fewer than one psychiatrist per one lakh people, far below global recommendations.

Karnataka's policy pitch must be backed with resources and a rethink on prevention approaches

Suicide prevention cannot succeed through helplines and circulars alone. It requires a holistic solution that goes beyond reactive care. It requires solutions that dismantle the pressure-cooker academic culture, aggressively erase the stigma of failure, and check easy access to hazardous materials like pesticides, commonly used in rural suicides. Every parent, teacher, warden, and administrator must be trained as a first line of mental health response, capable of recognising silent distress before it turns into a crisis. At the same time, institutions must be mandated to have qualified, full-time counsellors, rather than expecting undertrained, overburdened teachers to double up as therapists. Supreme Court guidelines already stipulate that any institution with over 100 students must have a qualified, full-time counsellor on-site. This policy is a step in the right direction. But saving lives demands more than incrementalism. It requires ambition, resources, and the courage to rethink how we educate, evaluate, and care for our young. It is time to replace the mindset of managing decline with the courage to protect life at any cost.

NUCLEAR RED LINES

Muscat talks hit pause but mistrust looms

As Iran and the US reopen dialogue, military pressures and fresh sanctions leave the prospects unclear

R SWAMINATHAN

Iran and the United States reopened a diplomatic channel last Friday in Muscat, Oman, with two rounds of indirect talks lasting five hours. Although both parties characterised the exchange as constructive, the negotiations continue to remain fragile, particularly with the presence of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and other US naval assets off Iran's coast.

The US side included, for the first time, the US Navy Admiral Brad Cooper, Head of Central Command, besides Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law. Cooper's presence, in full military uniform, at the talks was intended as a signal of US military strength and leverage in the region.

The meeting focused primarily on listening and clarifying positions rather than negotiating technical frameworks or specific concessions. Iran insisted firmly that the agenda be restricted to nuclear issues. Earlier, Tehran had successfully pushed to shift the venue from Istanbul to Muscat and resisted expanded regional participation. From the Iranian perspective, a broader format would have tilted the process towards US demands to include limits on Iran's ballistic missile programme and restrictions on its support for Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Iraqi militias. For Iran, ballistic missiles are vital and non-negotiable, as these missiles are its security insurance against any US military attack.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described the talks as a "good start" with a "positive" atmosphere and emphasised the importance of continued consultations. Trump called the discussions "very good" and indicated the next round could take place as early as next week. Simultaneously, Washington reinforced pressure by announcing new sanctions and tariffs on Iran. Trump said US military assets were moving into position, while stressing that the US is "in no rush", but accusing Iran of building a new nuclear facility.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to visit Washington this Wednesday for talks with President Trump. The trip, originally planned for around the 18th of this month to attend the first meeting of the Board of Peace, was moved forward to focus specifically on the Iran issue amid Israel's concerns that the US position may be shifting. Netanyahu's visit is intended to press against any US-Iran agreement that is limited to the nuclear issue while leaving out Iran's ballistic missile programme and its regional security threats.

Netanyahu played a decisive role in persuading the first Trump administration to withdraw from the 2015 JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Programme of Action) nuclear deal and has consistently supported a hardline approach. He attacked Iran after the IAEA reported non-compliance of Iran with its safeguards obligations, and later pressed for US strikes on Iran's enrichment facilities. From Israel's perspective, strategic confrontation with Iran remains unfinished business.

Because Israel does not share a border with Iran, it faces fewer immediate physical spillover risks from a renewed conflict or potential internal destabilisation within Iran. That geographic buffer significantly shapes Israeli threat assessments and tolerance for escalation. The Arab Gulf states, by contrast, operate under far greater proximity risk and, therefore, adopt a more cautious strategic calculus. While they would welcome outcomes that degrade Iran's ballistic missile capabilities and constrain its support for Hezbollah and the Houthis, they are concerned that a large-scale US strike on Iran could trigger region-wide retaliation. Such escalation could threaten critical energy infrastructure, disrupt shipping lanes, and undermine macroeconomic stability.

Although several Gulf governments have publicly stated that their airspace would not be available for offensive operations against Iran, they recognise that strikes could be conducted from maritime platforms in the Arabian Sea or via alternative regional corridors. Iranian officials have repeatedly framed any direct attack as a trigger for broad regional confrontation.

These risk perceptions have been communicated to Washington by multiple regional partners, including Qatar, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Oman, emphasising the systemic costs of escalation. US domestic political factors also shape decision-making. Elements within Trump's political base have shown growing resistance to further Middle East military entanglements and are increasingly critical of what they see as an "Israel First" policy, especially with mid-term elections due next year. Military action against Iran would almost certainly be messy and prolonged, drawing the US into a never-ending war.

A shift in posture

At the same time, key technical uncertainties remain regarding Iran's nuclear programme despite claims of severe degradation following strikes on enrichment facilities. Outstanding issues include the disposition of the existing highly-enriched uranium stockpile of 408 kg, the enforceability of a permanent enrichment halt, and the restoration of comprehensive IAEA verification access beyond limited sites.

Economic pressure has altered Tehran's negotiating posture. Successive rounds of sanctions and resulting domestic unrest, including merchant-led protests that expanded into broader anti-government demonstrations, have increased regime vulnerability. This pressure has contributed to Iran's renewed willingness to engage in nuclear-focused talks.

The Muscat talks mark not a breakthrough but a carefully managed reopening of dialogue. Given the deep mistrust between the two sides after the 12-day war last June, when the US dropped bunker buster bombs on Iranian nuclear enrichment facilities, the decision to continue the talks itself indicates progress. For now, both sides believe they hold leverage. Forward movement is likely to be slow and incremental.

A deal is achievable if the US sticks to its original red line of nuclear weapons. However, if it is persuaded to adopt Israel's red lines, the negotiations are likely to collapse, potentially leading to military confrontation.

(The writer is a former Ambassador of India to Egypt and former Governor of India to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], Vienna)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Code crimson: Operation dinner

I savoured each spoonful as if it were dessert disguised as dinner

VIKRAM VISWANATHAN

As a child, I was known in the family for one unmistakable trait—my insatiable sweet tooth. My love for sugary treats was so intense that I often refused to touch regular meals. Breakfast, lunch, or dinner—it didn't matter. I would sit at the table, lips pursed, waiting for dessert instead. My mother's pleas and threats made little difference. For me, food was only worth eating if it was sweet.

But my mother, ever patient and inventive, refused to give up. If sweetness was what I longed for, she decided, then she would find a way to bring sweetness into everyday food—without actually turning it into a dessert. She began experimenting quietly in her kitchen, testing how a touch of jaggery or coconut might coax me into eating. And then she discovered my one weakness: beetroot.

Unlike other vegetables, beetroot never met with my resistance. Whether it was a simple *poriyal* or a salad, I would eat it eagerly. My mother noticed how its earthy sweetness seemed to satisfy the same craving that drew me to sugarcane or sweets. That small realisation sparked an idea that would become one of her most memorable creations—beetroot *sambar*.

Sambar, the quintessential South Indian stew of lentils, tamarind, and spices, is usually tangy and robust. But my mother's version was different. Into the simmering pot of *tur dal* and tamarind broth, she added chunks of beetroot—deep red, glistening like jewels. As they cooked, their colour spread through the dish, transforming it into a vivid crimson stew.

The aroma that filled the kitchen was both familiar and new: the warmth of spices mingling with the gentle sweetness of beetroot.

When she first served it, the family was stunned. The *sambar*'s intense red colour looked almost otherworldly. My father hesitated; my siblings giggled. But I needed no convincing. I dove into my plate, savouring each spoonful as if it were dessert disguised as dinner. The sweetness, subtle yet comforting, felt like a secret meant just for me.

From that day on, beetroot *sambar* became a fixture in our kitchen. No teasing or disapproval from the rest of the family could make my mother stop making it. For her, this dish was more than food—it was affection made visible, a mother's quiet way of saying she understood me.

Even now, when I see beetroot bleeding its colour into a pot, I think of her—stirring the crimson stew with love and patience. It reminds me that sometimes, sweetness isn't found in sugar at all, but in the small, tender gestures that fill our lives with warmth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep politics out of urban mobility

Apropos 'Not fare: Politics derails Namma Metro' (Feb 11), the fare revision controversy surrounding Bengaluru's Namma Metro has become a political contest between the ruling Congress and opposition BJP. The proposed 5% hike sparked blame-game, with the BJP blaming the Congress government and the Congress citing an independent committee's recommendation. When the hike was put on hold, the BJP claimed credit, while the state government insisted it had stalled the move. If the government could stop the increase, why was it proposed in the first place? An unscientific and unjustified rise in Metro fares would burden commuters, discourage ridership, and defeat the objective of easing Bengaluru's road congestion. The state's transport policy appears paradoxical, defending free bus travel for women as empowerment while justifying higher Metro fares for cost recovery, exposing an illogical approach to urban mobility planning.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Be practical, not political

The report on political interference in Namma Metro's fare revision is concerning for daily commuters. Fare decisions should be guided by transparent, independent mechanisms, not political calculations. Frequent reversals and disagreements create uncertainty and erode trust. Public transport is a lifeline for Bengaluru; the state governance must prioritise commuters' interests.
Ivy Nandy, Bengaluru

Disappointing conduct

Apropos 'Oppn moves no confidence motion against LS Speaker' (Feb 11), Speaker Om Birla's conduct has been disappointing, prompting opposition parties to table a no-confidence motion. He has decided to stay away from the House till the motion is resolved. While the TMC isn't part of the motion, other opposition parties are on board. The NDA has the numbers to defeat the motion, and with TMC likely abstaining, Birla will likely tide over the crisis.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

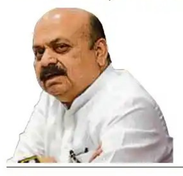
Clear the air

The Naravane memoir row is becoming increasingly murky, with the government attempting to shoot the messenger rather than reveal the truth behind the former Chief of Army Staff's revelations. How long will the government hide the truth from the public without losing credibility?
V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

They (Opposition) create a ruckus because they lack the capacity to hear the truth. Nirmala Sitharaman exposed it today... He (Rahul Gandhi) didn't utter a single word on the budget, it was a political speech... Nirmala Sitharaman responded to every point...
Basavaraj S Bommai, BJP MP



I have selective hearing. Sorry you weren't selected.
Anonymous

TO BE PRECISE

Govt tightens rules on AI and deep fake content

IN PERSPECTIVE

India, EU forge mineral diplomacy

The scope extends across processing, recycling, and cooperation in meeting ambitious climate targets

SHOBHANKITA REDDY

The concentration of critical minerals supply chains in a few countries has emerged as a strategic vulnerability for the world. To combat China's use of economic coercion, several bilateral and plurilateral partnerships are being explored.

It is in this light that the Joint India-European Union Comprehensive Strategic Agenda, released following the conclusion of the free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations, assumes significance. While acknowledging the current constraints, the agreement calls for cooperation aimed at "developing resilient, secure, and diversified critical minerals supply chains" as a key focus area. To operationalise this effectively, India and the EU can collaborate in mutually beneficial target areas.

Both parties struggle in the upstream segment of the critical minerals value chain, with a long gestation period between discovery and first production in mining projects. Regulatory hurdles, delays in obtaining clearances, environmental protests, and public backlash delay projects. Lately, India and the EU have been attempting to streamline domestic processes to incentivise private sector activity in the sector via the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Amendment Act, 2023, and the Critical Raw Materials Act, 2024, respectively. This shortcoming is reflected in the current scope of the India-EU partnership on critical minerals. Exploration, mapping, and investments in Indian mines do not feature.

Both parties, however, have signed MoUs with several mineral-rich nations individually, with some overlap as with Congo, Argentina, Chile, and Namibia. There is ₹70% overlap between the critical minerals lists of both India and the EU, reflecting a convergence in priorities. India and the EU can coordinate to streamline mineral-specific agreements as well as foreign mine acquisitions, exploration, and procurement efforts. Combating China's subsidy-linked suppression of commodity prices would require long-term procurement guarantees that would help ensure a stable supply for the EU's processing plants and India's great demand.

China's dominance is primarily owing to processing-stage capabilities. It has been a net importer of rare earths since 2018 and focuses instead on value-added manufacturing domestically. While the current scope of the India-EU partnership hinges on battery manufacturing and downstream processing, the engagement is still relatively nascent, with no project-level outcomes as yet. Bilateral collaboration in this part of the mineral value chain should be doubled down.

The EU has technical competence in processing, and several projects are currently under construction. Initiatives such as the European Battery Alliance, a public-private model, seek to build an integrated domestic battery value chain in Europe. The IREL, while still at an early stage, has been exploring partnerships for rare earth magnet production with South Korea and Japan. Recent reports suggest that India is looking to incentivise companies to set up nickel and lithium processing plants. The India-EU partnership can complement these efforts.

Furthermore, recycling offers a pathway to bypass China's processing capacity by prioritising e-waste stockpiles over mining. Europe has a strong focus on recycling and the circular economy, as indicated by the European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan. India has the potential to be a recycling hub despite being a late entrant, and it must collaborate with the EU on this.

Keeping pace with China

India and the EU are part of the Mineral Security Partnership; they must leverage their presence in plurilateral platforms to champion shared interests in long-term research towards rare earth substitutes and processing technology innovations, as well as blended finance and price-risk mechanisms.

Additionally, both parties have ambitious climate goals that include net-zero targets and the rapid expansion of renewable energy. As economies both concerned and overwhelmed by China's subsidy-linked overcapacity and domineering capabilities in solar panels, batteries, and electric vehicles, India and the EU have also been individually trying to advance their interests by adopting a pragmatic and transactional approach to China. The EU is considering mandating technology transfers and know-how from Chinese companies looking to invest and expand within its jurisdiction. India, too, is cautiously opening up to Chinese investments, including in government contracts.

India and the EU already work together in areas such as clean energy and water management. The India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), established in 2022, must be expanded in scope and ambition to include critical minerals as an area of focus. One way to do this is by instituting a separate task force reporting to the TTC's working groups on clean energy and trade. As mentioned in the joint agenda, the partnership would also need to go beyond government participation and enable cross-border private sector engagement.

(The writer is a researcher in technology geopolitics at the Takshashila Institution)

From myth to reality: How Kashmiri youth perceive Pakistan today

DATELINE Srinagar

ZULFIKAR MAJID

For generations of Kashmiris, Pakistan has long existed as a distant idea, shaped by fascination, mythology, and imagination. In the 1980s and 1990s, that fascination had a particular tone: Pakistan was seen not merely as a neighbouring country but as a Muslim-majority nation that felt culturally and religiously familiar, yet geographically and politically removed.

Cricket matches against Pakistan were more than games—they were events that shaped youth imagination, identity, and even belonging. Imran Khan's stride, Javed Miandad's last-ball heroics in the Sharjah final, and Wasim Akram's pace—these were heroic symbols that transcended sport, bringing the idea of Pakistan alive in the Valley's alleys and schoolyards. Stories of Lahore's bazaars, grand streets, and distant relatives added texture to a country that felt both real and unreachable.

Letters, occasional family visits, and anecdotes reinforced this perception. Pakistan existed as a parallel world, tied to Islamic identity, cultural commonality, and heroic narratives. For young Kashmiris, it was exciting, aspirational, and part of a distant dream.

Today, that image has shifted dramatically. Smartphones, social media, and constant connectivity have compressed distance, bringing Pakistan into the daily stream of life in Kashmir. Pakistan is no longer a far-off Islamic country; it is visible, comparable, and surprisingly familiar.

Videos, campus vlogs, lifestyle posts, and news reports show bustling streets, ordinary youth, economic struggles, and political instability—scenes that make the country's society appear strikingly similar to India's own. Social media has broken the myth of difference, replacing exotic imagination with grounded observation.

"The country we imagined as children feels very different now," said Faheem, a businessman in his late 40s. "It's not about heroes or Islamic identity anymore. You see protests, inflation, universities, and markets—it's a society like ours, with problems and opportunities, just across a border."

This realisation coincides with changing realities at home. Kashmiris note shrinking opportunities in the Valley, but economic instability, political uncertainty and terror attacks in Pakistan, widely circulated online, offer a comparative perspective. Youth now observe how society functions there and measure it against their own experiences—career prospects, education, and daily life.

Abdul Rashid, a shawl vendor from south Kashmir's Anantnag district, reflects, "When I was young, we imagined Lahore bazaars as grand and different. Now we see life there on social media—it is much like here. You realise people face similar struggles and have similar routines. It's no longer exotic; it's real."

Yet this awareness is tempered by the Valley's own challenges in mainland India. Many Kashmiris travel to Hindi heartland states for work. There, they encounter harassment, suspicion, and occasional hostility, experiences widely shared online. Viral videos of Kashmiri workers facing abuse provide a sharp reality check: belonging and opportunity are not automatic, and social boundaries can shape experience as much as borders do.

Bilal, who works part-time in Delhi markets, sums it up: "We compare life here and there not out of fascination, but to see what works and what doesn't. And when you go to Indian towns and face discrimination, it reminds you that opportunity alone isn't enough—you need acceptance too."

This generational shift is striking. Elders retain nostalgia for cricketing heroes and cultural stories, but younger Kashmiris navigate a more pragmatic, observational lens. Pakistan is no longer a distant symbol of Islamic identity or heroic imagination; it is a society like theirs, with struggles, aspirations and realities that can be compared, measured and understood.

Walking through Lal Chowk or Srinagar's old city, one senses this quiet recalibration. Youth are reflective, aware and discerning. Social media feeds provide clarity and contrast. Economic realities, political instability, and personal encounters shape how they understand society across the border.

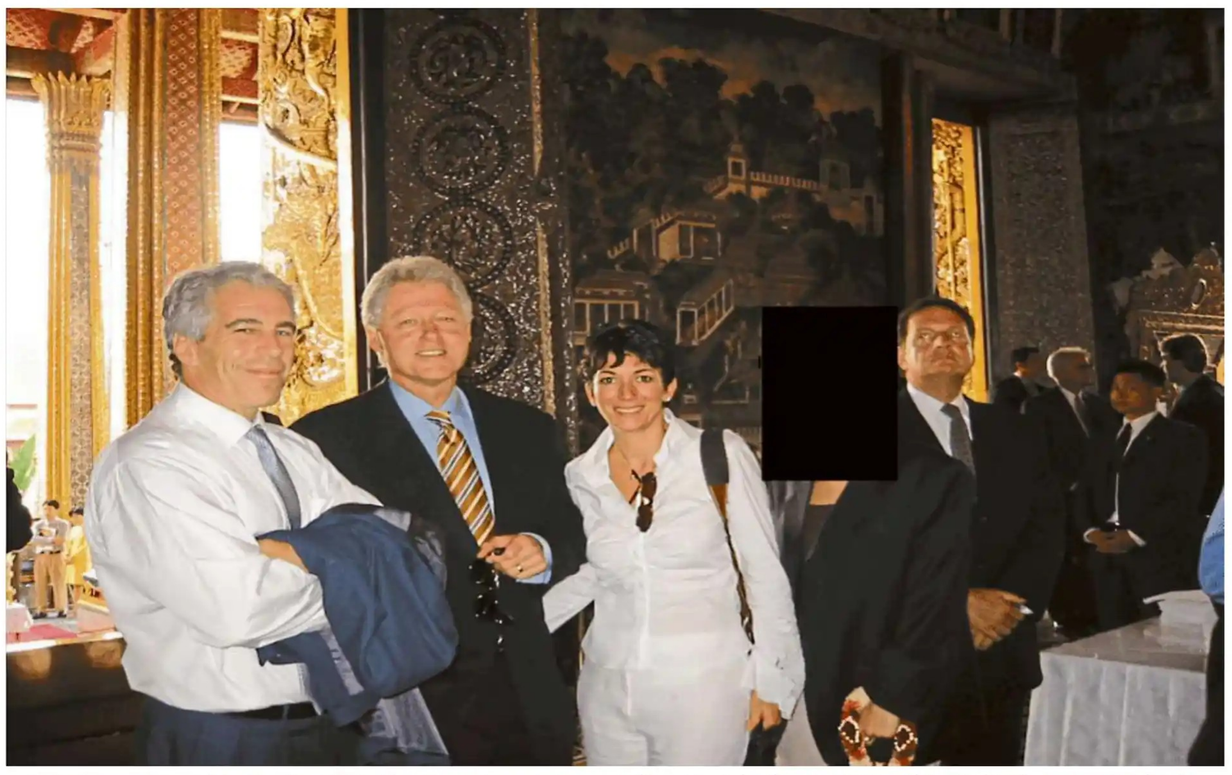
For readers outside Kashmir, this shift is instructive. The fascination with Pakistan as a distant Islamic ideal has evolved into sober observation: the society, its youth, its economy, and daily life are surprisingly similar to Kashmiris' own. At the same time, harassment and discrimination in Hindi heartland states provide a tangible reality check about belonging and opportunity.

This generational recalibration is subtle but profound. Elders may still recall Imran Khan's stride or Miandad's Sharjah six with emotion, but younger Kashmiris are shaped by different reference points. In playgrounds and on social media, many now follow Surya Kumar Yadav's innovation, Mohammad Shami's discipline, and Jasprit Bumrah's precision more closely than Babar Azam's elegance, Mohammad Rizwan's grit, or Shaheen Afridi's pace. Sporting loyalties, once intertwined with larger narratives of identity, have become more straightforward and performance-driven.

What has changed is not just the perception of Pakistan, but the grammar of aspiration itself. Borders remain contested and politics unresolved, yet imagination has yielded to comparison. Pakistan is no longer a distant symbol; it is a society observed in real time, weighed against lived realities in Kashmir and across India. For many young people, identity is shaped less by inherited mythology and more by opportunity, dignity and acceptance. The shift is quiet, but it marks a decisive turn from symbolism to pragmatism. **DHNS**

Disclosures in documents released by the Trump administration have roiled the world, leading to resignations and the threat of legal charges far beyond American borders

MARK LANDLER



A photograph provided by the US Justice Department shows Jeffrey Epstein, former US President Bill Clinton and Ghislaine Maxwell. Epstein collected friends and associates in an astonishing array of places. NYT

Epstein revelations stir chaos from Scandinavia to S Asia

A French politician, famed as a cultural icon of the 1980s and 1990s. A Norwegian diplomat who played a role in the secret talks that yielded the Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinians. A well-connected Slovak former minister who served as president of the United Nations General Assembly.

Three prominent officials, tripped up by their associations with Jeffrey Epstein — and they are far from the only ones.

Epstein, the financier and convicted sexual offender, collected friends and associates in an astonishing array of places. Now, several of them are being brought down by the unsavoury details of their relationships — some after Epstein was convicted in 2008 — which were revealed in nearly three million pages of documents released by the Justice Department in the United States.

Jack Lang, who once served as France's culture minister, announced on Saturday he would resign as head of the Arab World Institute, a prestigious cultural institution in Paris, after French authorities said they were investigating reports that he and his family had financial links to Epstein.

Mona Juul, who had been Norway's ambassador to Jordan and Iraq, quit after disclosures of financial dealings between her and her husband, and Epstein. Miroslav Lajcak, the national security adviser to Slovakia's prime minister, Robert Fico, stepped down following the release of emails between him and Epstein, in which the two men appeared to banter about young women.

"Clearly, he had a very extensive system," President Emmanuel Macron of France said this week, referring to Epstein's vast network of contacts. "This also fuels a lot of conspiracy theories and everything else."

The friendship between Epstein and Peter Mandelson, a former British ambassador to Washington, has kicked up such a firestorm that it initially threatened to sink Britain's prime minister, Keir Starmer, who appointed him.

Prominent figures have been name-checked in several other countries, costing them their jobs, their reputations and even the threat of legal charges. As with the leaking of offshore bank account holders in the *Panama Papers* affair, the case of Epstein has laid bare privileged political and social circles from Scandinavia to South Asia.

So many prominent names have surfaced, in fact, that major world figures have felt pressure to disavow links to him. After social media reports that Epstein met the Dalai Lama, a statement issued on Sunday on behalf of the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader said he had never met Epstein nor authorised anyone to meet him.

India's foreign ministry dismissed an email from Epstein, in which he appeared to take credit for the ingratiating approach of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a landmark State visit to Israel in 2017. Epstein's claims, the statement said, were "little more than trashy ruminations by a convicted criminal, which deserve to be dismissed with the utmost contempt."

But the opposition Congress Party seized on the reference to suggest that Modi was vulnerable to manipulation by foreign "monsters." Congress general secretary K C Venugopal urged the prime minister on social media to "personally come clean on these disturbing disclosures."

Political score settling has played a part in the reaction in other countries. In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu played up disclosures of emails between Epstein and Ehud Barak, a former prime minister who has been a vocal critic of Netanyahu.

"Jeffrey Epstein's unusual close relationship with Ehud Barak doesn't suggest Epstein worked for Israel. It proves the opposite," Netanyahu posted on social media on February 6. "Stuck on his election loss from over two decades ago," he wrote, "Barak has for years obsessively attempted to undermine Israeli democracy."

Speaking in December, Barak confirmed he attended lunches and dinners at Epstein's Manhattan townhouse, but said he did not witness or take part in any sexual abuse. "I now deeply regret having any association with him," he said.

In Slovakia, Prime Minister Fico portrayed the furore over Lajcak as an attack on him, saying his adviser's resignation would deprive the country of "an incredible source of experience in diplomacy." Lajcak told the Slovak Press Agency, "I was never offered sexual services, I never participated in any, I never witnessed any, and I never had any information about them."

Commentators in Slovakia said those denials stretched credulity, given the locker-room tone of the emails between him and Epstein (in one, Lajcak told him that when it came to young women, "sharing is caring.") There was no response to a text message, seeking comment, sent to a number that belonged to Lajcak.

In Norway, the police have begun investigating Juul and her husband, Terje Rod-Larsen, after media reports that the couple had been left $10 million in Epstein's will. Norway's foreign minister, Espen Barth Eide, said Juul had "shown a serious failure of judgment." Her lawyer said in a statement that she "does not recognise the accusations made against her."

Few countries have been as shadowed by the disclosures as Norway. A former prime minister, Thorbjorn Jagland; the crown princess, Mette-Marit; and Borge Brende, an ex-foreign minister who now runs the World Economic Forum, are all under scrutiny for their links. Norway's Parliament on Tuesday set up an independent commission to investigate those ties.

Kare R Aas, who served as Norway's ambassador to Israel, Afghanistan and the United States, said the disclosures had left diplomats in "sadness and anxiety." He said he expected Juul and her husband to face a reckoning in the courts.

"No mercy in Norway on corruption, and Norwegians in higher positions such as politicians and ambassadors are no exception," Aas said.

In France, Jack Lang's case will be a conspicuous test of the price of having dealt with Epstein. In a prolific career, Lang is credited with creating popular cultural events and architectural landmarks. Now 86 and retired from politics, he has remained a respected figure in France through the Arab World Institute, which he has led since 2013 and which promotes Arab culture and values.

Lang is more a figure of folklore than someone who carries political weight, said Christine Ockrent, a Paris-based broadcaster. Still, she said, he "represents French culture, and Epstein probably thought he would get access to that through him."

Lang's name came up more than 600 times in the documents, with emails chronicling lunches, dinners, and business deals, dating back to 2012, when Lang said he and Epstein were introduced by a mutual friend, the filmmaker Woody Allen.

Epstein jointly owned an offshore fund with Lang's daughter, Caroline, that Lang said Epstein set up to support up-and-coming artists, according to a French investigative website, *Mediapart*. Epstein also left Caroline, a film producer, $5 million in his will, according to Mediapart.

France's National Financial Prosecutor's Office said it had opened a preliminary investigation of Lang and his daughter for "laundering of tax fraud proceeds." Posting on social media, a defiant Lang said, "The accusations against me are unfounded, and I will prove this, despite the noise and fury of the media and digital courts."

The New York Times

Water as wealth

SUSHANTA MAHAPATRA AND MADAN MEHER

When the Union Budget 2026 was presented on February 1, public attention settled on familiar themes—capital expenditure, freight corridors, and manufacturing incentives. Yet beneath this visible fiscal architecture lies a quieter shift: water is being reimagined not merely as an environmental concern but as a strategic economic asset. In a country where water scarcity is treated as crisis management, the Budget begins to frame water as national capital.

This shift is evident in the proposed integrated development of 500 reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars, linked to fisheries, rural livelihoods, and women-led enterprises. Water bodies are no longer treated as passive storage infrastructure but as economic nodes that support employment, food security, and climate resilience—signalling a more development-oriented water strategy.

The second intervention lies in logistics. Budget 2026 commits to operationalising 20 new national waterways over five years, beginning with National Waterway-5 in Odisha, connecting mineral belts and industrial hubs to ports such as Paradeep and Dhamra. A Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme aims to raise the share of inland waterways and coastal shipping in freight movement from about 6% to 12% by 2047. Training institutes and ship-repair ecosystems are proposed alongside. With public capital expenditure set at Rs 12.2 lakh crore in FY 2026–27, fiscal space has been created for these ambitions.

The emphasis is timely. India's water challenge is deep, uneven, and structural. NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index (2019) warned that nearly 600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress. Groundwater depletion, declining water quality, and weak institutions continue to constrain agriculture, urban services, industrial productivity, and public health. Infrastructure-led responses, when disconnected from livelihoods and ecosystems, have repeatedly delivered limited returns.

Against this backdrop, transforming 500 reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars into integrated economic hubs marks a welcome shift. If well designed, reservoir rejuvenation can strengthen irrigation, recharge groundwater, support inland fisheries, and buffer climate variability. Linking these investments to fish farmer producer organisations and women-led enterprises signals a livelihoods-first approach, correcting the long-standing bias towards concrete over community.

Inland fisheries, identified by the FAO (2022) as inclusive and climate-resilient, show how water management with livelihoods can generate high social and economic returns. Yet India's experience under Jal Jeevan and the National Water Missions shows that infrastructure alone fails without governance. Reservoir development must combine watershed planning, desilting, pollution control, community co-management, and performance metrics for both ecology and livelihoods.

The inland waterways push carries both promise and risk. Shifting freight to inland water transport is globally recognised as an energy-efficient and low-carbon mode, particularly for heavy and bulk goods. The International Energy Agency's *Transport Report* (2022) notes that modal shifts from road to water can significantly reduce emissions and logistics costs—an important consideration for India's climate commitments and economic competitiveness. Linking the eastern waterways to industrial and port networks, the government could ease pressure on highways and rail systems.

However, rivers are not neutral logistics corridors. They are living systems that sustain biodiversity, wetlands, floodplains, and the livelihoods of riverine communities. Environmental assessments and safeguards must be integral to navigational projects. The health of aquatic ecosystems and the rights of fishing communities cannot be sidelined in pursuit of freight targets. Sustainable inland water transport must be planned in harmony with ecological flow requirements, biodiversity protection, and community resilience.

A comparison with Budget 2025 reveals a clear progression. While the 2025 Budget focused on building institutional frameworks for sustainable fisheries, including support for marine fishing and the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, Budget 2026 shifts decisively towards delivery at scale—backed by infrastructure, defined targets, and livelihood linkages. In effect, 2025 drew the map; 2026 has begun construction.

The larger significance of Budget 2026 lies in its implicit redefinition of development. Water is not an isolated sector; it is the fluid foundation upon which agriculture, industry, urban services, climate resilience, and human dignity rest. By integrating water revival with livelihoods and logistics, the Budget moves toward a model of growth that values resilience alongside productivity and equity alongside efficiency.

(Sushanta teaches economics at ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad, and Madan teaches economics at Amity Business School, Chhattisgarh)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1976

City site owners will have to plant trees

Bangalore, February 11
All house site owners in Bangalore will be required hereafter to plant a few trees before starting construction of houses, Chief Minister Devaraj Urs declared in the Karnataka Assembly today. Replying to the debate on the Bangalore Development Authority Bill, he assured the members to give due care to the aesthetic aspects of the City's development while planning its expansion. He was told that in Delhi the Development Authority had made it compulsory for all site-owners to plant trees before building houses. It would be necessary to adopt a similar rule in Bangalore also.

25 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 2001

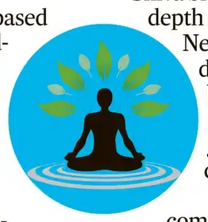
NASDAQ hopes Indian firms will be its major component

Bangalore, Feb 11
NASDAQ expects Indian companies to become a significant component of its activities over the next 10 years, the US stock market's vice-chairman, Mr Alfred Berkley Jr III, said today. At a luncheon meeting hosted by Chief Minister S M Krishna in his honour, a day before the opening of NASDAQ's India office in Bangalore, he appreciated the Indian presence in NASDAQ since 1994. The NASDAQ office will be located at the IT Secretary's office in UNI building on Miller Tankbund Road. Mr Berkley said NASDAQ was coming here as a follow-up to the request made by the Karnataka CM a year ago.

OASIS | RADHIKA D SHYAM

The power of opposites

This year Valentine's Day is followed by Shivaratri, a festival that marks the holy occasion of the celestial marriage of Shiva and Parvati. At first glance, they appear to be an odd pair, completely mismatched. Shiva leads an ascetic life in the mountains – ash-smeared, serpent-adorned, dwelling in cremation grounds and detached from worldly life. Parvati – graceful, cultured, raised in refinement and order, represents beauty, fertility, and domestic life. He is *anaadi*, *aja* or *ajuni*, meaning without source or unborn; She – the daughter of King Himavan and queen Mainavati. Shiva was grieving the loss of his beloved wife Sati and not seeking a soul-mate. Parvati was Sati reborn with the sole purpose of becoming his consort to restore balance.



And yet, their marriage is celebrated as the ideal union because harmony in life does not arise from similarity, but from complementarities.

Their attraction was not based on appearance, like-mindedness or social equality, but on spiritual alignment. The former practised meditation and silence while the latter, action and expression. Opposites complete each other, rather than compete. Relationships struggle because people seek sameness: similar tastes, backgrounds, and temperaments. But similarity alone does not create balance. Two fires intensify each other; two silences create distance. Balance comes when differences become supportive rather than divisive. Parvati brings warmth, family, and nurturing energy into Shiva's detached existence. Shiva brings stability, wisdom, and depth into Parvati's active nature.

Neither dominates; neither diminishes. Kailasa becomes both a place of meditation and a home of affection, where *ganas*, sages, and even animals coexist.

The story teaches that compatibility is not the absence of differences, but the presence of understanding. A successful partnership does not erase individuality; it protects it while creating unity. Shiva and Parvati prove that when respect replaces expectation and awareness replaces ego, even the most contrasting personalities can form the most stable bond. Without Shakti, Shiva is pure potential — silent and unmoving. Without Shiva, Shakti becomes directionless energy. Together they form Ardhanarishvara symbolising equality of genders. They complement each other in every way. Shiva, who destroys ego, becomes a gentle householder in Parvati's presence — a father to Ganesha and Kartikeya, a protector of devotees. Parvati, though a royal princess, embraces austerity in Kailasa without losing warmth or compassion. She does not abandon her nature; she expands it. He does not abandon detachment; he softens it with affection.

Their union reminds us that true compatibility is spiritual, not superficial.

J&K moves to revive Tulbul, Chenab projects after Indus treaty pause

India suspended the water agreement after April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

India's suspension of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) following last year's Pahalgam terror attack has prompted the Jammu and Kashmir government to revive two major water projects that had been stalled for decades — the Tulbul Navigation Barrage in Kashmir and a Chenab-based drinking water scheme for Jammu city.

The IWT, signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan, regulated the sharing of water from the Indus river system.

While India has full rights over the eastern rivers, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej, the western rivers — Indus, Jhelum and Chenab — were largely earmarked for Pakistan, with India permitted limited non-consumptive use, including run-of-the-river hydropower projects subject to design restrictions.

The treaty was put in abeyance by India following the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 civilians were killed, leading to a limited scale skirmishes between India and Pakistan from May 7-10.

With the treaty no longer operational, the J&K government has initiated discussions with the Central government to proceed with the stalled projects.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah told the Assembly on Tuesday that work on the Tulbul Navigation Barrage near Sopore and the proposed Chenab water supply scheme for Jammu could now see progress. "Efforts are in progress, and I hope that work on both these projects will start soon," he said, noting that earlier attempts to pursue these proposals did not succeed because of restrictions linked to the treaty.

"We had given these proposals to the Asian Development Bank, but they did not permit them, and these got sabotaged under the IWT," said Abdullah.

The Tulbul Navigation Project was conceived in the early 1980s to regulate water levels in the Jhelum by constructing a gated barrage at the mouth of Wular Lake. The aim was to ensure navigability during lean winter months and improve downstream hydropower generation.

Work began in 1984, but was suspended in 1987 after Pakistan objected to the design under the IWT's framework.

The Chenab water supply scheme was intended to address Jammu city's mounting drinking water needs by lifting water from the Chenab near Akhnoor.

At present, the city relies largely on supplies drawn from the Tawi river, which has struggled to meet rising demand amid rapid urban growth.

Construction of Babri-style mosque begins in Bengal

REJINAGAR, PTI: Suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir on Wednesday began the construction of the much-hyped mosque—modelled on Ayodhya's Babri Masjid —in West Bengal's Murshidabad district.

Kabir, who recently floated Janata Unnayan Party (JUP), announced that the mosque at Rejinagar in Beldanga would be completed within two years and would cost around Rs 50-55 crore.

Amid the excitement of hundreds of residents, construction workers began the brick-laying ceremony for the structure at around noon, with Kabir stating that the building of the mosque remained on course despite resistance from multiple quarters.

Many supporters were seen carrying bricks on their heads as a gesture of participation in the construction.

"To those who are opposing, I would say step aside. People are free to follow their own religions and build temples, churches, or whatever they wish. I will not oppose anyone in the name of Islam. My effort is for Islam to please Allah and perform my devotion, it is not about imposing anything," the JUP chief said.

"There's no force on earth which can stop the construction of this mosque. By the grace of God, we will finish its construction within two years. It will be built at a cost of Rs 50-55 crore," he added.

Audit flags irregularities in Global Ayyappa Sangamam

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Amid the row over the Sabarimala gold heist, the Left Front government is again on the back foot over Sabarimala, as irregularities have been found in the audit of expenses of the Global Ayyappa Sangamam held last year.

Even as the government and the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) had earlier assured the Kerala High Court that the entire amount for the event — widely considered a propaganda exercise of the Left Front — would be met through sponsorships, the audit found that around Rs 3.4 crore spent by the TDB and the government for the event has not yet been recovered.

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday asked the TDB to provide a clarification on the matter within ten days.

TDB president K Jayakumar told reporters that so far only around Rs 4 crore had been received as sponsorship, while the actual expenditure was higher. A meeting of the Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society (ULCCS), which conducted the event, will be held on February 17 to discuss the pending payments and sponsorships, he said.

The Global Ayyappa Sangamam was held on the banks of the Pamba river at Sabarimala on September 20 last year.

Countering petitions in the HC, the government and the TDB had submitted that the entire expenditure would be met through sponsorships.

However, the audit report submitted by the special commissioner to the HC pointed out that around Rs 3.5 crore spent on the Ayyappa Sangamam was yet to be received from sponsors. The report also noted that the execution of the work was awarded to the Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction, which is associated with ULCCS, without inviting tenders. It further stated that around 4,100 packets each of 'Aravana' and other prasadas supplied by the TDB to participants were not accounted for.

Wait for probe to end, says Fadnavis amid Ajit Pawar plane crash sabotage claims

MUMBAI, DHNS: Amid suspicions raised by Pawar family member and MLA Rohit Pawar about possible sabotage behind the Baramati Learjet crash involving Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said it would not be proper to arrive at a conclusion pending the completion of the probe.

"A probe has been ordered... the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is investigating... we have also ordered an investigation by the Crime Investigation Department," Fadnavis told reporters in Mumbai.

The chief minister said that soon after the crash, he had written to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for a thorough probe.

"Ajit Dada was a senior and experienced leader, he was a popular leader," said Fadnavis, who heads the BJP-led Maha Yuti government, which includes the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP.

"The incident has shocked Maharashtra and family members... if he (Rohit Pawar) has information, he can write to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation," said Fadnavis, who was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The statement came on a day when Ajit Pawar's wife and Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar was on a visit to New Delhi.

"We need to wait for the probe to be over... our agencies are often called by many countries when there are air accidents... we should have faith in our agencies and wait for the report to come," said Fadnavis, adding: "Once the report comes, we will put necessary measures in place... air safety is important for one and all."

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

MY OPPONENT HAS A COZY RELATIONSHIP TO BIG SUGAR!!
HMM...I CAN RELATE
WHY? BECAUSE YOU SELL SWEETS?
NO, BECAUSE I HAVE A COZY RELATIONSHIP WITH A BIG EATER!

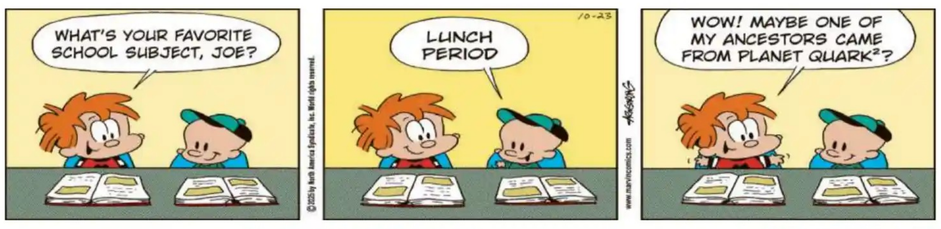
Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

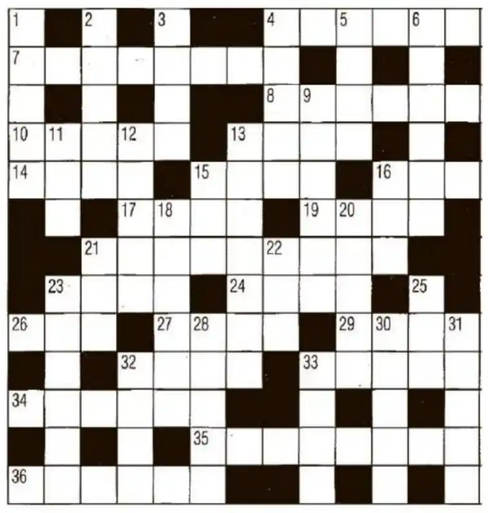
Peanuts

PSST! WAKE UP, SIR!
I CAN'T LIFT MY HEAD, MARCIE...GIVE ME A LITTLE PUSH...
BONK!!
DON'T CALL ON ME FOR A WHILE, MA'AM... I'M HERE, BUT MY NOSE IS IN THE RECOVERY ROOM!

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12352



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Roughly treated by a gang with a plot (6)
7 She wove a hair mat (4,4)
8 Hardly bags to drink (6)
10 Stamp a letter, we understand (5)
13 In a close atmosphere, support is needed (4)
14 Near Scotland, perhaps, but not far (4)
15 Forward and backward in trepidation (4)
16 Could it be hailed as first in rank? (3)
17 Spread out and work two ways (4)
19 A bit abrasive, but women still wear them (4)
21 Excellent cover for a soldier, say (9)
23 Food to fight for? (4)
24 Like a vixen? (4)
26 Money dad gets on the fourth of July (3)
27 Where the besiegers gained a hollow victory? (4)
29 It's just uncommonly conclusive (4)
32 Maybe a real king? (4)
33 A possibly dangerous glider (5)
34 Shut up in winter, normally (6)
35 A bookish traveller (8)
36 Possibly finger one's hair (6)

DOWN
1 A girl accepts it as friendship (5)
2 Absolute, say (5)
3 Fish in a London well! (4)
4 His niggardliness upsets me sir! (5)
5 There's nothing in a half bottle to give you a kick (4)
6 Runs without running (6)
9 Container of something topping (6)
11 Can be chewed and tattered (3)
12 Grace making a fuss over the sailors (5)
13 Summoned often, perhaps, in surroundings of squalor (4,3)
15 Rather like tea, it can be green (3)
16 She's spiteful though less than scathing (3)
18 Trouble to take a squint around the street (6)
20 Art silk or any variant (5)
21 You can knock the stuffing out of him (3)
22 Being bashful, little company for a soldier (3)
23 Prohibitive placard? (6)
25 Nigel Kennedy doesn't really possess such an animal (3)
28 Roam around in anger? (5)
30 Figure in service as a hard worker (5)
31 Long to get the amount of pay you deserve (5)
32 What some have a slim chance of getting (4)
33 Counsel possibly slick, getting Charlie off (4)

ACROSS
4 Front of the neck (6)
7 Lino (8)
8 Hire charge (6)
10 Honour and prestige (5)
13 Marquee, for example (4)
14 Identical (4)
15 Cast off (4)
16 Pen part (3)
17 Garden tool (4)
19 Heroic (4)
21 Vaudeville (5,4)
23 Colour (4)
24 Rabbit-like mammal (4)
26 Bleat (3)
27 Twelve inches (4)
29 Very keen (4)
32 Rise (2,2)
33 Gaze fixedly (5)
34 Boots for anglers (6)
35 Indefatigable (8)
36 Evaluate (6)

DOWN
1 Ditties (5)
2 Partial or total darkness (5)
3 Modelling material (4)
4 Number (5)
5 Smallest of a litter (4)
6 Foreign language (6)
9 Make beloved (6)
11 Stripling (3)
12 Repeat (5)
13 Dismissal from work (3,4)
15 Move on snow (3)
16 Nothing (3)
18 Try to obtain by requesting (3,3)
20 Fold in clothing (5)
21 Girl's name (3)
22 Titfer (3)
23 Heathens (6)
25 Tree (3)
28 Expels (5)
30 Manservant (5)
31 Thick (5)
32 DNA unit (4)
33 Pace (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12351

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Piping 7, A-m-Eric-an 8, Rest 10, Op-IA-te 11, Bistro 14, Fly 16, Set-u-p 17, E-yes 19, Come-t 21, Noted 22, He-Ron 23, Plea 26, Threw 28, Via 29, At onc-E 30, Fi-RM-er 31, Leap 32, The Hague 33, A-venue.
DOWN: 1, Parole 2, Ideals 3, G-a-te 4, Braised 5, Scott 6, Snoop 8, Rife 9, St(a)y 12, Set 13, Rud-G-e 15, Mo-t-or 18, Y-acht 19, Cor 20, Me-N 21, New coat 22, Hen 23, P-I-rate 24, LA-MP 25, A-RR-I've 26, T-aste 27, Rower 28, Vie 30, Flea.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Forget 7, Arrogant 8, Parr 10, Spot-on 11, Before 14, Net 16, Dinar 17, Stye 19, Depot 21, Harem 22, Cuban 23, Vase 26, Venus 28, Web 29, Amoeba 30, Delete 31, Idol 32, Learners 33, Heroes.
DOWN: 1, Feasts 2, Goatee 3, Tarn 4, Boredom 5, Talon 6, Steer 8, Pony 9, Rot 12, Fit 13, Races 15, Feral 18, Totem 19, Dab 20, Pen 21, Husband 22, Cue 23, Velour 24, Abel 25, Events 26, Vault 27, Nomad 28, Wed 30, Dish.

◆SU-DO-KU-6828◆

				8	5			
					1	8	4	
	2	1	4	3				
			2					4
2	9						5	7
3					6			
				4	2	9	7	
	4	2	3					
			5	7				

hard

SOLUTION TO 6827

7	8	5	1	4	9	6	3	2
9	4	3	2	7	6	5	8	1
2	1	6	5	8	3	4	7	9
6	3	1	4	9	5	7	2	8
5	7	4	8	3	2	9	1	6
8	2	9	7	6	1	3	4	5
4	5	2	9	1	7	8	6	3
1	6	7	3	5	8	2	9	4
3	9	8	6	2	4	1	5	7

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							RACK 1
N1	U1	E1	R1	T1	M3	C3	
							RACK 2
L1	S1	Z10	E1	E1	A1	Y4	Triple Word Score
							RACK 3
L1	L1	H4	M3	Y4	M3	P3	2nd Letter Triple
							RACK 4
L1	D2	G2	E1	I1	B3	O1	Double Word Score

PAR SCORE 135-145
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P3	I1	N1	W4	O1	R1	K5	RACK 1 =	98
E1	J8	E1	C3	T1	O1	R1	RACK 2 =	98
A1	I1	R1	S1	I1	C3	K5	RACK 3 =	89
L1	A1	M3	B3	A1	S1	T1	RACK 4 =	83
A1	S1	P3	H4	A1	L1	T1	RACK 5 =	86

PAR SCORE 310-320 JUDD'S TOTAL 454

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

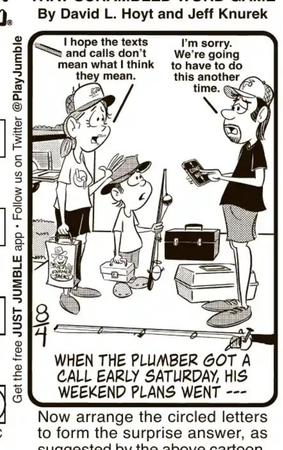
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIWLS

OGUDH

NBRENA

OCDRTO


I hope the texts and calls don't mean what I think they mean.
I'm sorry. We're going to have to do this another time.
WHEN THE PLUMBER GOT A CALL EARLY SATURDAY, HIS WEEKEND PLANS WENT ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) THE ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VENOM WRECK PIGLET FLINCH
Answer: He was one out away from a perfect game, and the crowd's cheering reached a — FEVER PITCH

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HITORI-3282

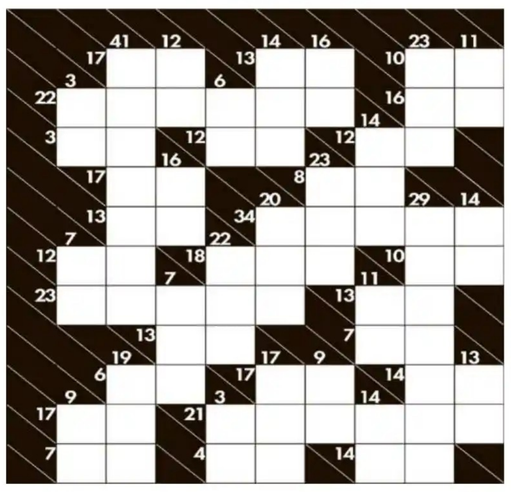
3	5	8	1	4	7	2	4
4	8	1	2	4	4	4	3
8	8	2	7	6	3	7	1
5	2	6	4	7	7	3	8
4	7	3	7	2	8	1	4
4	3	7	1	4	2	6	5
1	4	5	6	8	3	4	2
2	6	4	8	1	5	7	4

SOLUTION TO 3281

4	8	6	1	5	■	2	■
6	2	8	■	1	3	7	5
7	5	■	3	4	■	8	■
8	■	2	4	■	7	■	6
■	4	1	2	6	5	3	8
5	6	4	■	2	8	1	7
3	■	7	8	■	4	■	2
■	1	5	■	7	2	4	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3282



SOLUTION TO 3281

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3825

9		7			6	8		
				9				
						1	3	
8			6			9		
3	5	1	9		8			
4				2				
					5		1	
			3			5		6
5								

SOLUTION TO 3824

8	6	3	5	2	7	9	1	4
7	1	2	4	3	9	8	5	6
4	9	5	6	8	1	3	7	2
3	7	9	2	4	8	5	6	1
2	8	4	1	6	5	7	3	9
1	5	6	7	9	3	2	4	8
6	3	1	9	7	2	4	8	5
5	2	7	8	1	4	6	9	3
9	4	8	3	5	6	1	2	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 37–2025–26/3385–88 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.02.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲೂ–2,3&4 ರನ್ವಯ ಏಕಲಕೋಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸೋಮವಾರಪೇಟೆ ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 4059–80–0510–60–132 ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಇತರೆ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚಗಳು (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಖ್ಯೆ: 33180, 33114, 33025, 33468, 33104, 33117, 33111, 32079) ಮತ್ತು 5054 – ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 29332) ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು–10 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 41.70 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 359.50 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–02–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ / ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

CHITRADURGA TOWN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD, VASAVI CIRCLE, CHITRADURGA-577501

Ph.No. -944813297-9008949112 E-Mail ID. chitrdurgatown@gmail.com

No.ctcs/building/tender/01/2025-26 Dated: 09-02-2026

Short term E-Tender

Manager, Chitradurga Town Co-operative Society ltd, invites Construction of 1st floor of Society Building tender. Eligible Conctractors may apply in E-Tender on our office website.

Estimate Cost : Rs. 149.70 lakhs. Tender Cost: Rs.121.95 lakhs E.M.D Rs. 2,00,000.00 .

Tender Form Fee As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Constractors grade Current year Class-3 PWD Contractor

Period of construction : 06 months (encluding mansoon)

GST will pay sepretaly. Tender Form Fee not refundable. Last date for submission of E-Tender is 23-02-2026 at 16.00 Hours. And Tender will re-open on 24-02-2026 at 16.15 Hours. Contractors are advise to refer and understand terms and conditions stipulated in the tender documant before quoting. If any more information visit our office and contact our Manager on working hours. The Employer Reserve the rights to Reject or accept or cancel all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/662/2025-26 **Sd/- sd/- Manager , Chitrdurga Town Co-operative Society Ltd, Chitradurga**

Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009. Ph No. 22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-27/1670/2025-26 Date: 10.02.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK KPPP Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 18M, 15M & 12M Wide Roads, Flexible Pavement, Construction of RCC Side Drains, Inspection Chambers, Over Head Tank, HDPE Water Supply Pipeline etc., at Manvi Industral Area, Manvi Taluk, Raichur District.

Last date for submission of bids: 27.02.2026 upto 04:00 pm.

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/CP/AAA/5590/2025-26 **Sd/- Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/Tr(Op.)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/25-26/9397 Date: 10.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bids against Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/Mys/TZ/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/870 dtd:07.02.2026 for **Replacement of age old 10no's of 66kV Circuit Breakers at 66/11kV S/s Madikeri, K.R.Nagara, Halaguru, Cowdhalli & Gundlupete coming under Transmission (Operations) Mysuru Zone. The work includes Supply of equipment's/materials, erection, Civil Works, testing & commissioning on Total Turnkey Basis.**

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.02.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-, Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Ground Floor, FTS Compound, N. R. Mohalla, Mysuru-57007.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

2, 2/1 and 2/3,Acharya Tulasimarg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru – 560009. Phone No. 080-2226 5383, Email : ceoem@kiadb.in, website : www.kiadb.in

No.KIADB/JDTP/FCN:43142/641/2025-26 Date: 11-02-2026

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

KIADB has obtained Environment Clearance for the following Industrial Areas. The same are available in the following website.

Sl. No.	Name of the Industrial Areas	Environment Clearances obtained from SEIAA
1	Environment Clearance (EC) obtained for Development of Industrial Layout in Aliyabad 3rd Phase by Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) at Aliyabad village, Vijayapura Taluk & District, Karnataka State, over an extent of 305.02 Acres (123.44 Hectares), dtd: 09-02-2026.	https://parivesh.nic.in
2	Environment Clearance (EC) obtained for Development of Multi Model Logistics Park (BMIC Dharwad Industrial Node-1 Industrial Area) at Kummanayakanakoppa and Shinganahalli Village, Dharwad Taluk & District, Karnataka State, over an extent of 943 Acres (381.62 Hectares), dtd: 10-02-2026.	https://parivesh.nic.in

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 11-02-2026

Sd/- Chief Engineer-2, KIADB, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/RO5583/AAPL/2025-26

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C-CAMP
Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP)

GKVK Post, Bellary Road, Bangalore - 560 065

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

C-CAMP invites public tender for construction of device facility building at its campus with an estimated amount of **Rs.2cr** for details visit **https://www.ccamp.res.in.**

The last date of submission: 05.03.2026 by 2:00 PM.

Bidar Urban Development Authority, Bidar.

Udgir Road Noubad Bidar -585404 Email : udabidar@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಬೀನಪ್ರಾ/ನಿಜಾಮಪುರ/ಕೆರೆ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ–1/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:–09–02–2026.

TENDER NOTIFCATION

1) Name of work BIDUDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT1, 2) Estimated cost As per kppp-portal, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant As per kppp-portal, 4) EMD amount As per kppp-portal, 5) Pre Bid Meeting **26-02-2026 at 11.00 AM** 6) Last date for submission of tender **02-03-2026 upto 04.00 PM,** 7) Technical bid opening **03-03-2026 at 04.30 PM,** 8) Address for communication Commissioner,Bidar Urban Development Authority,Bidar -585404.Email : udabidar@gmail.com, 9) Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

DIPR/Bidar/330/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Commissioner, Bidar Urban Development Authority Bidar.**

Government of Karnataka
Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi.
Autonomous Medical Institution

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Road, Belagavi-590 001. E-mail: belgaum.bims@gmail.com

ಸಂ: ಬಿಮ್ಸ್/ ಟೆಂಡರ್/GNL–3/ಸಿ.ಆರ್ –05/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11–02–2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Account Officer cum Financial Advisor Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences Belagavi. The Tender Invitation for TENDER INVITE FOR VEHICLES WITH DRIVER ON HIRE BASIS FOR DAY TO DAY USE AND COLLEGE CANTEEN TENDER, HOSPITAL ABARK TENDER, FOR BIMS BELAGAVI, FOR BIMS Belagavi as per K.T.P.P. Act 1999 & Rules 2000 in Two Cover System there under

Sl. No	Tender Notification	Description of Tender	Tender Value (Approximate) (Rs. In Lakhs)	Downloading of Tender Document
1	BIMS//TENDER/GNL -3/CR- 05/2025-26 DATE: 12/02/2026	PROVIDING OF VEHICLES WITH DRIVER ON HIRE BASIS FOR DAY TO DAY USE OF B.I.M.S BELAGAVI	Rs. 19.20 Lakhs	KPP-PROCUREMENT PORTAL
2	BIMS//TENDER/GNL-2/CANTEEN /CR- 67 /2025-26 DATE:12/02/2026	TENDER INVITATION FOR COLLEGE CANTEEN FOR BIMS BELAGAVI	Rs. 9.00 Lakhs	
3	BIMS//TENDER/GNL2/ABARK /CR- 30 /2025-26 DATE:13/02/2026	TENDER INVITATION HOSPITAL ABARK OUTSOURCEING FOR BIMS BELAGAVI	Rs. 99.00 Lakhs	

The Tenderers Registered under KPP-Procurement Portal can refer Government of Karnataka KPPP Portal website **https:www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** to get detailed information about the tender & details of EMD & Security Deposit or can contact the Director BIMS Belagavi in the working hours to get the information.

Tender inviting authority, Tender Accepting Authority has got powers to cancel any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/BELAGAVI/1822/2025-26/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY **Sd/- Chief Account Officer cum Financial Advisor, Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi.**

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Bengaluru North City Corporation, Bellary Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore 560092

No. BNCC/EE/ELE/TN/GN/01/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026

SHORT TIME TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Executive Engineer (Elect), Bengaluru North City Corporation, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike/GBA/KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any other equivalent central/state government organizations for Electrical work as detailed in the table.

Sl. No.	Ward	Name Of Work	Estimated cost	Amount put to Tender	EMD	Category
		ZONE 1				
1	9	Annual maintenance of electrical Equipments and maintenance of Crematorium at Kempapura, in Hebbala Kempapura Ward-No 09	Rs. 16.00	Rs. 13.56	Rs. 16950.00	ST
2	3	Annual maintenance and servicing of 2 Crematoriums Generators, Transformers and other related accessories Coming Under Yelahanka Zone.	Rs. 10.00	Rs. 8.47	Rs. 21200.00	Others
3	60 03 &	Emergency Repair Works to Electrical Crematorium in Yelahanka Zone.	Rs. 10.00	Rs. 8.47	Rs. 10600.00	CAT-II(A)
4	8	Annual Maintenance and Repairs of Electrical Installation at J.C Yelahanka Zonal Office and bbmp building in Byatarayanapura Amrutahalli Constituency.	Rs. 12.00	Rs. 10.17	Rs. 21200.00	Others
5	8	Electrical Installation and Rewiring of Primary Health Center and BBMP Buildings Coming Under Yelahanka Zone.	Rs. 7.00	Rs. 5.93	Rs. 7420.00	SC
6	61 & 75 116 to 121	Maintenance of electrical installations of BBMP buildings, schools, maternity homes, community halls coming under Hebbal, Pulikeshinagara and Shivajinagar Assembly Constituencies Under POW 2025-26.	Rs. 15.00	Rs. 12.71	Rs. 15900.00	SC
7	7 to 14	Repairs and Replacements of damaged cables, poles, park fittings in Byatarayanapura Constituency Parks.	Rs. 25.00	Rs. 21.19	Rs. 50000.00	Others
8	14	Providing Poles, LTUG Cable and accessories in Ward No 14 Parks and Singapura Lake.	Rs. 30.00	Rs. 25.42	Rs. 50850.00	Others
9	10	Improvement of electrical installtions in Ward No 10 Doddabommasandra Lake.	Rs. 30.00	Rs. 25.42	Rs. 50850.00	Others
10	76 to 85	Maintenance & repair works to parks lighting system by providing Poles, fixtures, UG Cable and repairs to control panels under Sarvagnanagar Constituency under POW 2025-26.	Rs. 20.00	Rs. 16.95	Rs. 50000.00	Others
11	69 to 75	Maintenance & repair works to parks lighting system by providing Poles. fixtures. UG Cable and repairs to control panels under Pulikeshinagar Constituency under POW 2025-26.	Rs. 10.00	Rs. 8.47	Rs. 21200.00	Others
12	61 to 75 116 to 121	Providing Repairs to High Mast lighting System and other allied works in Hebbal, Pulikeshinagara and Shivajinagar Assembly Constituencies Under POW 2025-26.	Rs. 25.00	Rs. 21.18	Rs. 50000.00	Others
13	8	Maintenence & repairs of Transformers, Pumpset, DG set in Yelahanka zone	Rs. 10.00	Rs. 8.47	Rs. 10600.00	CAT-II(A)
14	8	Repairs & Maintenance of Air Conditioner and other related Accessories Coming Under Yelahanka zone.	Rs. 10.00	Rs. 8.47	Rs. 21200.00	Others
15	76 to 85	Providing new Poles, LED fittings, cable and Other accessories to Parks coming under Sarvagnanagar Constituency Under POW 2025-26,	Rs. 22.00	Rs. 18.64	Rs. 50000.00	Others
		ZONE 2				
16	3	Annual maintenance of electrical Equipments and maintenance of Crematorium at Medi Agrahara, Lakshmipura in Atturu Ward-No 03	Rs. 16.00	Rs. 13.56	Rs. 16950.00	CAT-II(A)
17	4	Annual Maintenance and Repairs of Electrical Installations to BBMP buildings coming under Yelahanka Constituency	Rs. 6.00	Rs. 5.08	Rs. 6360.00	ST
18	18	Annual Maintenance and Repairs of Electrical Installations at Dasarahalli Zonal office buildings in Ward No 18.	Rs. 12.00	Rs. 10.16	Rs. 12710.00	SC
19	1 to 4	Repairs and Replacements of damaged cables, poles, park fittings in Yelahanka Constituency Parks.	Rs. 25.00	Rs. 21.18	Rs. 50000.00	Others
20	1	Improvement of electrical installtions in Ward No 01 Yelahanka Lake.	Rs. 40.00	Rs. 37.98	Rs. 38000.00	SC
21	15 TO 20	Replacement of Damaged Poles, lights, Burntout UG Cable, Panels boards and its accessories in Parks and highmast lights to playgrounds coming under Dasarahalli Zone Ward 15,16,17,18,19,20,	Rs. 30.00	Rs. 24.81	Rs. 50000.00	Others
22	61 to 68	Maintenance & repair works to parks lighting system by providing Poles. fixtures, UG Cable and repairs to control panels under Hebbal Constituency under POW 2025-26.	Rs. 22.00	Rs. 18.64	Rs. 50000.00	Others
23	4	Operation and Maintainence of Musical dancing fountain in Ward No 04 Yelahanka Zone	Rs. 10.00	Rs. 8.71	Rs. 10900.00	ST
24	4	Maintenance of Aerators and related lightings in Yelahanka oldtown and Allalsandra lake in ward No.1 & 4	Rs. 12.00	Rs. 10.17	Rs. 25450.00	Others
25	15 to 25	Replacement of Damaged Poles, lights, Burntout UG Cable, Panels boards and its accessories in Parks and highmast lights to playgrounds coming under Dasarahalli Zone Ward 15,16,17,18, 19, 20,	Rs. 22.00	Rs. 18.64	Rs. 50000.00	Others
26	61 to 68	Providing new Poles, LED fittings, cable and Other accessories to Parks coming under Hebbala Constituency Under POW 2025-26.	Rs. 22.00	Rs. 18.64	Rs. 25000.00	SC

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home from 13-02-2026. (2)** Bids must be submitted online through the KPP Portal on or before **20-02-2026 by 16:00 hrs. (3)** The bids will be opened on **21-02-2026 at 16:00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer Electrical Division, BNCC

Karnataka Housing Board

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Last date for submission of bid: 19.02.2026 upto 4.00 PM

Name of the work : Village development to KHB layout at Gollarahatti and Irubanahalli village, Bellur hobli, Nagamangala taluk, Mandya district. **Work Indent :** KHB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 705 & IFT No.148/2025-26 Date: 05.02.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs.1,42,59,526/-

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/5586 /AKAR/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

LOOKING FOR JOB OPPORTUNITY

Refer Classifieds on Wednesday

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Corporate Office, procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.

Ph: 9448994705, Email ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org Website: www.cescmysore.org

CESC/GM(P)/AGM(P-2)/M(P-1)2025-26/35959 Date: 07.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-procurement Portal Only)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Transformers & Services as mentioned below:

Sl No	Transformer Capacity	Name of the Division	Tender No
1	Supply of 25 kVA, Aluminium winding Star-1 (4 star) Distribution Transformer, 11kV/433V-CRGO Stacked Core with Oil to CESC jurisdiction	Mandya	CESCOM/2025-26/IND0234
2		Pandavapura	CESCOM/2025-26/IND0235
3		Chamarajanagara	CESCOM/2025-26/IND0236
4		Kollegala	CESCOM/2025-26/IND0237
5		Hassan	CESCOM/2025-26/IND0238
6		Holenarasipura	CESCOM/2025-26/IND0239
7		Hunsuru	CESCOM/2025-26/IND0240
8		Nanjanagudu	CESCOM/2025-26/IND0241

Sl No	Service	Name of the Sub Division	Tender No
1	Providing manpower services for the work of Reading of Energy meters in consumer installation and issuing electricity bills on the spot in the O&M sub divisions coming under the jurisdiction of O&M Division, CESC, Madikeri for a period of one years.	Madikeri	CESCOM/2025-26/SE0264
2		Kushalnagara	CESCOM/2025-26/SE0265
3		Virajpete	CESCOM/2025-26/SE0266
4		Gonikoppa	CESCOM/2025-26/SE0267

Sl No.	Service	Name of the Sub Section	Tender No
1	Arranging shift, minor maintenance and housekeeping works at 33/11kV Sub-station Murnadu coming under the jurisdiction of O&M Division Madikeri for a period of one year on total turnkey basis	Siddapura	CESCOM/2025-26/SE0268
2		Murnadu	CESCOM/2025-26/SE0269

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **12-02-2026** . For clarification contact help desk **080-46010000/22631200/68948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

DIPR/MYSORE/1647/SSC/2025-26 **Sd/- General Manager (Procurement), CESC, Mysuru**

Hostage scare at Thai school ends with gunman's arrest

HAT YAI (THAILAND), AP/PTI: A hostage situation and a shooting were reported on Wednesday inside a school in southern Thailand, authorities said. The situation was resolved after a few hours, with the gunman apprehended, police said.

The police's Central Investigation Bureau said an armed man held some students and teachers hostage, and at least one student was injured. Police said the incident was under control about two hours later, though they did not immediately release further details.

Thai media reported that several people were injured, though that was not officially confirmed. The gunman appeared to be angry as he entered Patongprathankiriwat School in Songkhla province in the late afternoon, shortly after classes were dismissed, and a few gunshots were heard afterwards, according to the provincial Public Relations Department.

The motive of the gunman was not immediately known.

Gun violence is not uncommon in Thailand, which has one of the highest rates of gun ownership and gun-related deaths in Asia, though mass shootings are rare. Data collected in 2017 by the groups Small Arms Survey and GunPolicy.org found that there were about 10.3 guns per 100 people in Thailand.

9 killed and dozens injured in Canada mass shootings

Suspect found dead after attack at school and residence in British Columbia

TORONTO, AFP

A shooter killed nine people and wounded dozens more at a secondary school and a residence in a remote part of western Canada on Tuesday, authorities said, in one of the deadliest mass shootings in the country's history.

The suspect, described by police in an initial emergency alert as a "female in a dress with brown hair", was found dead with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, officials said. The attack occurred in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, a picturesque mountain valley town in the foothills of the Rockies.

A total of 27 people were wounded in the shooting, including two with serious injuries, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

Prime Minister Mark Carney said he was "devastated" by the "horrific acts of violence" and announced he was suspending plans to travel to the Munich Security Conference on Wednesday, where he had been set to hold talks with allies on transatlantic defence readiness.

Police said an alert was issued about an active shooter at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School on Tuesday afternoon.

As police searched the school, they found six people shot dead. A seventh person with a gunshot wound died en route to hospital.

Separately, police found two more bodies at a residence in the town. The residence is "believed to be connected to the incident", police said.

At the school, "an individual believed to be the shooter was also found deceased with what appears to be a self-inflicted injury", police said.

Police have not yet released any information about the age of the shooter or the victims.

"We are devastated by the loss of life and the profound impact this tragedy has had on families, students, staff and our entire town," the municipality of Tumbler Ridge said in a statement.

Tumbler Ridge student Darian Quist told public broadcaster CBC that he was in his mechanics class when there was an announcement that the school was in lockdown.

He said that initially he "didn't think anything was going on", but started receiving "disturbing" photos about the carnage. "It set in what was happening," Quist said.

He said he remained in lockdown for more than two hours until police stormed in, ordering everyone to put their hands up before escorting them out of the school.

Trent Ernst, a local journalist and a former substitute teacher at Tumbler Ridge, expressed shock over the shooting at the school, where one of his children has just graduated.

He noted that school shootings have been a rarity, occurring only every few years in Canada, compared with the United States, where they are far more frequent.

Iranian president apologises over violent crackdown

Tehran marks Islamic revolution anniversary amid US pressure

DUBAI, AP/PTI

Iran marked the 47th anniversary of its 1979 Islamic Revolution on Wednesday as the country's theocracy remains under pressure, both from US President Donald Trump, who suggested sending another aircraft carrier group to the Middle East, and from a public angrily denouncing Tehran's bloody crackdown on nationwide protests.

Iran is in the midst of negotiations with the US over its nuclear programme, but it remains unclear whether a nuclear deal will be reached. Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency has been unable for months to inspect and verify Iran's nuclear stockpile.

In a ceremony marking the revolution anniversary, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian apologised to "all those affected" by the nationwide protests and the bloody crackdown that followed, even as he denounced unspecified "Western propaganda" surrounding the unrest. Pezeshkian said he knew the "great sorrow" felt by people over the protests and the crackdown, without directly acknowledging the role Iranian security forces played in the bloodshed.

"We are ashamed before the people, and we are obligated to assist all those who were harmed in these incidents," Pezeshkian said. "We are not seeking confrontation with the people." Pezeshkian also insisted that his nation was "not seeking nuclear weapons ... and is ready for any kind of verification".

Escalating pressure, Trump suggested deploying a second carrier group in an interview published on Tuesday night, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, long an Iran hawk, visited Washington to push the US towards the strictest possible terms in any agreement reached with Tehran in the fledgling nuclear talks.

A top Iranian security official planned to visit Qatar on Wednesday after earlier travelling to Oman, which has mediated this latest round of talks. On Iranian television, authorities broadcast images of tens of thousands of people taking to the streets across the country to support the theocracy and Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-580025

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: ಹುಧಾನಪ್ರಾ: ಸಿ.ಎ. ನಿ.ಹಂಚಿಕೆ/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-02-2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ 30 ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು (30 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ) ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಸದರಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಉದ್ದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಉಪಯೋಗ (ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ) ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ನಿಯಮ 1991 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ, ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಘ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು/ ಕೇಂದ್ರ/ ರಾಜ್ಯ/ ಅರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ನಿಗಮ ಮಂಡಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ. ನಂ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ರಿಸನಂ/ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ನಂ	ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.	ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಚ.ಮೀ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ರೂ. ಪ್ರತಿ ಚ.ಮೀ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಉದ್ದೇಶ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೊಬಲಗು ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಭರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ	ಶೇ 10 ರಂತೆ ಭರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಕ ಕೇವಣಿ ರೂ	ಸೂಚನೆಗಳು
1	ಅಯೋಧ್ಯಾ	155	151	0-ಎ 21 ಗು-8.75 ಆ	9000	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ	1,96,83,000	5000	19,68,300	
2	ಅಯೋಧ್ಯಾ	127/1ಅ/2+ 4+5+6+7	77	253 (2ಗು-8ಆ)	9000	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ (ಪ್ರಿ ನರ್ಸರಿ)	22,77,000	1000	2,27,700	
3	ಉಣಕಲ್ಲ	73/1	60	412.88 (4ಗು-1.25ಆ)	8500	ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ/ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	35,09,480	1000	3,50,948	
4	ಬಮ್ಮಾಪೂರ	63/ಅ+64	230	1489.24 (14ಗು-11.50ಆ)	5000	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	7446200	2000	744620	
5	ಗೋಪನಕೊಪ್ಪ	182/2+3+4, 183/1	108	1425.04 (14ಗು-1.25ಆ)	13000	ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ/ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	1,85,25,520	2000	18,52,552	
6	ಬೈರಿದೇವರಕೊಪ್ಪ	344ಅ	35	347.00(3ಗು-6.75ಆ)	10500	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	36,43,500	1000	3,64,350	
7	ತಾರಿಹಾಳ	17/2,18/1+ 2+3	01	2126.25(21ಗು-0.25ಆ)	5500	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ	1,16,94,375	5000	11,69,438	
8	ಅಯೋಧ್ಯಾ	160/ಬ+ 163ಕ	225	4582.68	9000	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ	4,12,38,000	7000	41,23,800	
9	ಕೇಶ್ವಾಪೂರ	40	139	336.70(3ಗು-5.25ಆ)	6000	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	20,20,200	1000	2,02,020	
10	ಅಮರಗೋಳ	68/1	82	1067.57(10ಗು-8.75ಆ)	11000	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	1,17,43,270	2000	11,74,327	
11	ಕೃಷ್ಣಾಪೂರ	95ಅ+ಬ	336	2538.73	9000	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	2,28,48,570	5000	22,84,857	
12	ನಾಗಶೆಟ್ಟಿಕೊಪ್ಪ	28/6ಅ+6ಬ +7/2,3 ಹಾಗೂ 28/9	48	402.68(3ಗು-15.75ಆ)	16000	ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನ	64,42,880	1000	6,44,288	
13	ನಾಗಶೆಟ್ಟಿಕೊಪ್ಪ	8/1	163	3008.22(29ಗು-11.75ಆ)	7500	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ	2,25,60,000	5000	22,56,000	
14	ಗಬ್ಬೂರ	69/2ಅ+ 69/2ಬ+3	44	628 (6ಗು-3.25ಆ)	7000	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	43,96,000	1000	4,39,600	
15	ಗಬ್ಬೂರ	65/3+66/1 +67/3+7	116	1420.25(14ಗು-0.75ಆ)	7000	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ/ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	99,41,750	2000	9,94,175	ಪ.ಜಾ
16	ಗಬ್ಬೂರ	67/6+ 68/1,68/2+4	156	1881.94	7000	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ	1,31,73,580	2000	13,17,358	
17	ಗೋಪನಕೊಪ್ಪ	11/1	79	3679.75	13000	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	4,78,36,750	5000	47,83,675	
18	ನಾಗಶೆಟ್ಟಿಕೊಪ್ಪ	8/1	163	3008.22	7500	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ	2,25,61,650	5000	22,56,165	
19	ಬೆಂಗೇರಿ	86/1	15	1742.02	7000	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	1,21,94,140	2000	12,19,414	
20	ನಾಗಶೆಟ್ಟಿಕೊಪ್ಪ	14/1/ಬಿ	86	1598.16	16000	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ/ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	2,55,70,560	2000	25,57,056	
21	ರಾಯನಾಳ	85/2	103	492.21	10000	ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ	49,22,100	1000	4,92,210	ಪ.ಜಾ
22	ಕೇಶ್ವಾಪೂರ	38/1+2/ಅ+ಬ/5	02	381.89	6000	ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನ	22,91,340	1000	2,29,134	
23	ಕೆಲಗೇರಿ	48/1ಹ,1ಗ1ಫ, 1ಡ,1ಕ,1ಇ	84	1143.48	6500	ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ	74,32,620	2000	7,43,262	ಪ.ಜಾ
24	ಬೇಲೂರ	116/1	89	379.52	5000	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	18,97,600	1000	1,89,760	ಪ.ಜಾ
25	ದೊಡ್ಡನಾಯಕನಕೊಪ್ಪ	30/1ಕ/11	02	202.50	8000	ವ್ಯಾಯಾಮ ಶಾಲೆ	16,20,000	1000	1,62,000	ಪ.ಪಂ
26	ತಡಸಿನಕೊಪ್ಪ	95	93	961	6500	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	62,49,100	1000	6,24,910	ಪ.ಪಂ
27	ನರೇಂದ್ರ	62/2ಎ, 63	27	240.3	4500	ಮಿಲ್ಖಭೂತ	10,81,350	1000	1,08,135	
28	ಕೆಲಗೇರಿ	10/1+10/2+ 13+17/1+19/1 +20/1+2+3+4	139	1456.65(14ಗು-6.25ಆ)	6500	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ/ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ/ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯ	94,68,225	2000	9,46,823	
29	ಲಕಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ	4ಅ/1ಅ/1	09	135.92(01 ಗು-5.50ಆ)	8500	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	11,55,320	1000	1,15,532	
30	ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ	7/14ಅ/2/2ಸಿ.ಟಿ. ಎಸ್.ನಂ.12ಡಿ/20	18	202.70	7000	ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ	14,18,900	1000	1,41,890	ಪ.ಜಾ

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1) ನಿಗಧಿತ ನೋಂದಣಿ ನಮೂನೆ ನಿವೇಶನ ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12-02-2026 ರಿಂದ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರೂ. 1,000/- ಶುಲ್ಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಿ, ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. 2)ಕೇಂದ್ರ/ರಾಜ್ಯ/ಅರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ/ ನಿಗಮ ಮಂಡಳಿಗಳು** ಸಿ.ಎ ನಿವೇಶಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೋರಿದಲ್ಲಿ/ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಆದ್ಯತೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು. 3) ಸಭೆಯ ನಿರ್ಣಯದಂತೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 4) ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಘ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಕಾಲಂ (9) ಮತ್ತು (10) ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿದೊಂದಿಗೆ **ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಂದಾಯವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಖರೀದಿಸಲಾದ ಡಿ.ಡಿ./ ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ ನವನಗರ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಶಾಖೆಯ ಖಾತೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ಫಾರಂನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.** 5) ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ನಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾದ ಮತ್ತು ದೋಷಪೂರಿತ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡದ ಹಾಗೂ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದೇ ಇರುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 6) ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿರುವ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ನಕ್ಷೆ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಶಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. 7) ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚಲು ಅನುಸರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು, ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ನಿಯಮ 1991 ನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. 8) ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು, ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. 9) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1987 ಸಿ.ಎ. ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ನಿಯಮ 1991ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 8(4) ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವಂತೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಿಗೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಹಣದ ಶೇಕಡ 50 ರಷ್ಟು ದರಕ್ಕೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. 10) ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ ಮಾಡಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಂಘ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ (ಅ ದಿಂದ ಉ) ವರೆಗಿನ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ **ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:20-02-2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.** ನಂತರ ಬಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 11) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1987 ಸಿ.ಎ. ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ನಿಯಮ 1991ರ 3(2) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆ ಸಂಘ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.12) ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಸಿ.ಎ. ನಿವೇಶನದ ಆಸ್ತಿ ತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದವರು ಭರಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
ಅ) ಸಂಘದ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಸಂಘದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದಾಖಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಧ್ಯೇಯೋದ್ದೇಶಗಳು / ಬೈಲಾ. ಆ) ಸಂಘದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ. ಇ) ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಒದಗಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳು. ಈ) ಕಳೆದ 03 ವರ್ಷದ ಆಡಿಟ್ ವರದಿ. ಉ) ಸಿ.ಎ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಅಗತ್ಯತೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ನಡಾವಳಿಕೆ ಪ್ರತಿ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಡಾ॥ ಸಂತೋಷಕುಮಾರ ಬಿರಾದಾರ, ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1224/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/-
ಶಾಕೀರ ಸನದಿ, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

US moves to counter China in Bangladesh

DHAKA, REUTERS: The US is concerned about China's expanding presence in South Asia and is planning to offer Bangladesh's next government US and allied defence systems as alternatives to Chinese hardware, Washington's ambassador to Dhaka told Reuters.

Bangladesh votes in a general election on Thursday after a Gen Z-led uprising toppled India-allied premier Sheikh Hasina in August 2024. She has since taken refuge in New Delhi, allowing China to deepen its influence in Bangladesh as India's presence wanes.

China recently signed a defence agreement with Bangladesh to build a drone factory near the India border, worrying foreign diplomats. Bangladesh is also in talks with Pakistan to buy JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, a multi-role combat aircraft jointly developed with China.

"The US is concerned about growing Chinese influence in South Asia and is committed to working closely with the Bangladeshi government to clearly communicate the risks of certain types of engagement with China," US Ambassador Brent T Christensen said in an interview on Tuesday.

India should respect B'desh sentiments: BNP leader

DHAKA, PTI

Expressing confidence that the BNP will form the next government in Bangladesh, a top party leader said it seeks neighbourly relations with India, with a focus on the early resolution of border issues.

Ahead of polling in the 13th parliamentary elections on Thursday, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) National Executive member Zeeba Amina Khan said India must find ways to understand the sentiment of the people of her country regarding the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

This is the first election since the ousting of Hasina's Awami League government in massive student protests on August 5, 2024. Hasina fled to Delhi the same day and, three days later, the interim government took oath. Opinion polls have positioned the BNP as the frontrunner, with its chief Tarique Rahman, back from 17 years of exile in the UK, leading the charge to form the next government.

In an interview with PTI Videos on Tuesday night, Khan urged New Delhi to work with the people of Bangladesh.

Volunteers prepare voter slips a day ahead of the national election in Dhaka on Wednesday. REUTERS

"India must work with the people of Bangladesh. It's not a question of the BNP or whoever. If India can understand now, then we are best friends," Khan, who is also an Assistant to the BNP Chairperson for Foreign Affairs, said.

"We are neighbours. We are friends. We should be friends. We have a very large border... So we should look after each other... Why would we have anything against India?"

Khan voiced strong confidence in the BNP's prospects in the election, in which her centre-right party is pitted against its longtime ally, the far-right Jamaat-e-Islami, in the absence of the now-disbanded Awami League. "We are going to form the government in Bangladesh, and it will be with a thumping majority," she said. "And Mr Tarique Rahman will be our prime minister."

She also dismissed speculation about a hung parliament.

On the safety of minorities, particularly Hindus, Khan rejected the framing of the issue. "It should not be a major concern. We look after our citizens," she said.

"It's not a question of minorities. They are our citizens... They all should have the same rights in Bangladesh as any citizen of Bangladesh."

India and Pakistan war could have been nuclear, says Trump

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI: US President Donald Trump repeated the claim that he stopped the war between India and Pakistan last year, which he said could have turned nuclear, through tariffs.

"I settled eight wars. Of the eight wars, at least six were settled because of tariffs. In other words, I said, 'if you don't settle this war, I'm going to charge you tariffs, because I don't want to see people getting killed," Trump told Fox Business on Tuesday.

"And they said, 'Well, what does this have to do?' I said, 'you're going to be charged'. Like India and Pakistan. It would have been a nuclear war, in my opinion. They were really going at it; 10 planes were shot down," Trump said.

Trump has claimed credit for stopping the India-Pakistan conflict more than 80 times since May 10 last, when he announced that the two neighbours had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after talks mediated by US.

A person wearing a mask depicting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu takes part in a protest in Washington DC on Wednesday. REUTERS

Netanyahu to urge expanded Iran talks during meeting with Trump

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: With President Donald Trump saying he believes Iran wants to make a deal on its nuclear programme, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is arriving at the White House on Wednesday with his own urgent message: Expand the talks further.

The visit from Netanyahu - their seventh meeting in Trump's second term - comes as both Tehran and Washington are projecting cautious optimism after holding indirect talks in Oman on Friday about how once again to approach negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme.

"We'll see what happens. I think they want to make a deal," Trump said in an interview Tuesday with Fox Business Network's Larry Kudlow. "I think they'd be foolish if they didn't. We took out their nuclear power last time, and we'll have to see if we take out more this time."

He added, "It's got to be a good deal. No nuclear weapons, no missiles."

Netanyahu's office has said he wants those talks to include limits on Iran's ballistic missile programme and support for militant groups like the Palestinian Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

WTO must reform, status quo is not an option: Chief

GENEVA, AFP: At a time of growing geopolitical tensions, the World Trade Organisation must urgently reform itself, its chief said Wednesday, warning that "the status quo is not an option".

The WTO, which regulates large swathes of global trade, has been facing increasing pressure to overhaul systems and structures considered by many as outdated and unable to keep pace with a rapidly changing world.

Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said the organisation was "at an inflection point" at a time when "questions are being raised about whether multilateral organisations are still relevant".

"Multilateral organisations like us need to change to be fit for purpose, need to reform for the times," she told the UN correspondents' association ACANU.

"I don't think the status quo is an option."

Global CXO Accelerator Summit 2026 on Feb 21-22

BENGALURU, DHNS: Global CXOs, Indian CEOs, GCC site leaders, senior HR leaders, and ecosystem partners will gather at the Global CXO Accelerator Summit 2026, which will be held on February 21-22, 2026, at The Chancery Pavilion, Bengaluru.

The experts will share real-world insights on how leaders grow, get promoted, and succeed at the highest levels, at the event, which is focused on career acceleration and CXO-level leadership.

The summit will feature leaders from the US and India, including Suprotik Ghose, a former CISO based in Washington DC. Deepak Visveshwaraya, Senior Vice-President and Managing Director, Pega India; Dr Rajesh Puneyani, Site Leader, Kenvue; and Varadharaju Janardhanan, Chief Human Resources Officer, Super.money (a Flipkart Group company), along with several other senior business, technology, GCC, and HR leaders.

Speaking about the summit, Mudit Saxena, Founder of CXOhive and Curator of the Global CXO Accelerator Summit, said, "Most professionals work extremely hard, yet remain unclear about what truly drives promotions, leadership visibility, and global CXO readiness. This summit was created to bridge that gap."

The summit is designed for ambitious professionals across industries, including IT (Services & Product), Data & Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Consulting, BFSI & Fintech, Pharma & Life Sciences, Auto & Manufacturing, GCCs and Global Enterprises.

As part of the summit, Industry Leadership Awards will be presented to recognise outstanding leadership talent across technology, business, GCCs, and people leadership.

New CPI data to better capture economic reality, says Centre

Homes spending less on cereals, more on veggies, meat

BLOOMBERG

India is taking major steps to overhaul its key statistics to better capture the rapid expansion in consumer spending over the past decade and improve policymaking in one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

The government will publish a new inflation series on Thursday to reflect changing spending patterns and give a better view of underlying price pressures. On February 27, it will release a new set of GDP figures, which analysts say may show a sharp revision higher in the size of the economy.

"Over the past 10 years, there's been more than a doubling of expenditure per household and that reflects an increase in the socioeconomic status of people in general," Saurabh Garg, Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, said in an interview in New Delhi.

The inflation data will be based on a new index, which cuts the weight of volatile items such as food to about 36.8% from nearly half and shifts the base year to 2024, from 2012. Prices have also been collected nationwide and new categories, such as rentals for rural housing and online marketplaces, have been added.

The overhaul comes amid scrutiny of the RBI's inflation forecasting model, after it consistently overestimated price pressures, potentially contributing to a hawkish policy stance. The exercise is being closely watched by markets as it could alter expectations for interest rates at a time when foreign flows are highly sensitive to policy signals.

The ministry will release the inflation data at 4 pm IST on Thursday. It will include figures for 2025 based on the index weights, making comparisons easier.

Garg said India's consumption basket has shifted significantly, with households spending less on cereals such as rice and wheat and higher on fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat, reflecting improving socioeconomic conditions.

"You spend more on fresh fruits and vegetables when you have a slightly larger disposable incomes," he added.

The country's economy is projected to rise 7.4% in the financial year through March, and over 7% in the next financial year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has repeatedly said India has already become the world's fourth largest economy, overtaking Japan.

Apart from capturing shifts in food consumption, the upgraded CPI will track spending in areas such as online shopping, dining out and streaming services including Amazon and Netflix.

The government is also upgrading the base year for GDP to 2022-23, from 2011-12 to reflect new economic structures. Garg said the availability of new data sources such as GST, new EV registrations and information on informal sector and horticulture will be incorporated.

Changes in categories and weights in inflation baskets

Old Series Base 2012	Weight	New Series Base 2024	Weight
Food and Beverages	45.9	Food and Beverages	36.8
Paan, Tobacco and Intoxicants	2.4	Paan, Tobacco and Intoxicants	3
Clothing and Footwear	6.5	Clothing and Footwear	6.4
Housing	10.1	Housing, water, electricity, gas	17.7
Fuel and Light	6.8		-
Household Goods and Services	3.8	Furnishings, Household equipment	4.5
Health	5.9	Health	6.1
Transport and Communication	8.6	Information and Communication	3.6
	-	Transport	8.8
Recreation and Amusement	1.7	Recreation, Sports and Culture	1.5
	-	Restaurants and accommodation	3.3
Education	4.5	Education	3.3
Personal Care	3.9	Personal Care	5
Total	100	Total	100

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Barclays, Bloomberg

Silver up Rs 4,000 to Rs 2.68 lakh/kg

Yellow metal rises to Rs 1.61 lakh/10g

NEW DELHI, PTI

Silver prices climbed Rs 4,000 to Rs 2.68 lakh per kg in the national capital on Wednesday, while gold edged up to Rs 1.61 lakh per 10 grams tracking strong global trends.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal jumped by Rs 4,000, or 1.5%, to Rs 2,68,500 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) from Tuesday's closing level of Rs 2,64,500 per kg.

Gold of 99.9% purity also witnessed buying by traders, with prices rising Rs 600, or 0.4%, to Rs 1,61,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 1,60,700 per 10 grams in the previous session. "Gold and silver advanced on Wednesday supported by growing expectations of a more aggressive rate cut by the Federal Reserve," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst, Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

He added that the move followed softer US economic data, as December retail sales fell short of forecasts, signalling a slowdown in consumer spending. "Post-data markets have now raised the probability of three Fed rate cuts this year, up from two just a week ago, a lower interest rate scenario favours non-yielding metals like gold," Gandhi said.

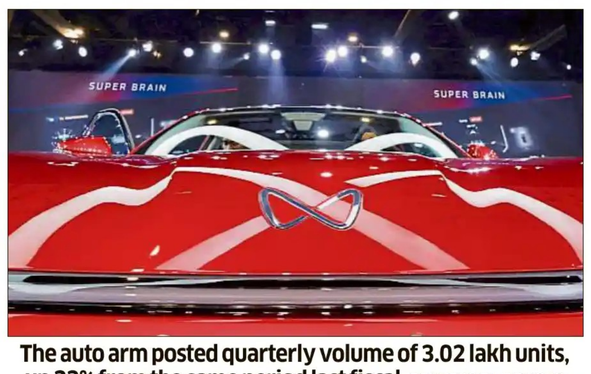
In the global markets, spot silver gained $4.71, or nearly 6%, to $85.51 per ounce, while gold was trading 1.06% higher at $5,078.72 per ounce.

Spot gold was trading higher on a weaker US dollar on Wednesday as investors await the crucial US nonfarm payroll data, Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Rupee falls 22 paise against $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee depreciated 22 paise to close at 90.78 against the US dollar on Wednesday, amid increased dollar demand from importers and geopolitical tensions.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 90.56 against the dollar, and moved between a low of 90.75 and a high of 90.46 against the greenback in intraday trade. Meanwhile, the dollar index was trading 0.26% lower at 96.54.



The auto arm posted quarterly volume of 3.02 lakh units, up 23% from the same period last fiscal. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

M&M records 38.54% rise in Q3 PAT at Rs 5,021.47 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) on Wednesday reported a 38.54% jump in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 5,021.47 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2025, propelled mainly by strong performance of the auto and farm sector.

The company had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 3,624.48 crore a year ago, M&M said in a regulatory filing.

Consolidated revenue from operations in the third quarter stood at Rs 51,579.95 crore, as compared to Rs 41,464.98 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

This is the first time M&M has crossed Rs 50,000 crore revenue on a consolidated basis.

Total expenses in the quarter under review were higher at Rs 41,464.98 crore, as compared to Rs 37,096.65 crore in the same period, a year ago, the company said.

In the quarter, the group incurred an exceptional outgo of Rs 292.94 crore, on account of the new Labour Codes, the filing said.

The auto segment posted quarterly volume of 3.02 lakh units, up 23% from the same period last fiscal, M&M said, adding the farm sector volume was at 1.5 lakh units, a growth of 23% from the corresponding quarter, a year ago.

M&M Group CEO and MD Anish Shah said a solid operating performance across the group in Q3 FY26 reflected the group's strong focus on growth coupled with disciplined execution.

"Auto and farm has maintained its leadership position on the back of steady customer demand, strong product acceptance and unwavering focus on operational excellence," he said, adding TechM continues to make meaningful progress.

Mahindra Finance delivered another solid quarter with meaningful PAT growth while maintaining strong asset quality, Shah said, adding "we are especially pleased to see breakout performance from two of our growth gems, Mahindra Logistics and Mahindra Lifespaces".

M&M Executive Director and CEO (Auto and Farm Sector), Rajesh Jejurikar said,"We have achieved a 90 basis points YoY increase in SUV revenue share and 10 bps YoY increase in LCV (less than 3.5 tonnes) market share in Q3."

LTIMindtree rebrands as LTM Limited

NEW DELHI, PTI: IT services firm LTIMindtree on Wednesday said it has rebranded itself as 'LTM Limited', marking a shift in its corporate identity years after the high-profile merger of L&T Infotech and Mindtree.

The company, a part of the L&T Group, said the new brand reflects its evolution into a global tech powerhouse and its readiness for the next phase of growth in the digital era.

"Effective today, our brand name transitions from LTIMindtree to LTM. Having successfully operated as a unified organisation for several years following the merger, we have evolved into a global powerhouse," Venu Lambu said in his first official address to shareholders as CEO and MD.

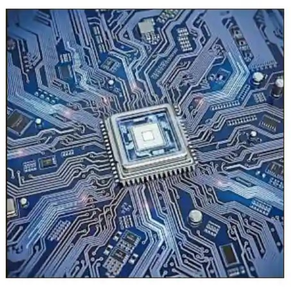
State targets bigger share of $300-bn electronics market

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government is stepping up efforts to attract investments across the electronics and semiconductor value-chain, as India's electronics output is projected to reach $300 billion by 2026, and the domestic semiconductor market is expected to touch $64 billion.

Addressing industry leaders at Source India 2026, Manjula, Secretary to the Government, Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, said the state is focusing on scaling manufacturing alongside its strong R&D base to capture a larger share of India's rapidly growing electronics and semiconductor market.

"Karnataka is not just participating in India's electronics growth story—we are shaping it. With our strong R&D ecosystem, global engineering centres and a focused push on manufacturing, the state is ready to lead the next phase of electronics and semiconductor expansion," she said.



She said Karnataka currently contributes nearly 10% of India's industrial output and is among the leading electronics-exporting states, with exports of over $4.5 billion, ranking third in the country. It is home to around 500 R&D centres and nearly 100 chip-design centres, including Intel, AMD, Qualcomm, Samsung, GE, Texas Instruments, Lam Research and Applied Materials. Intel's largest R&D centre outside the US and GE's second-largest global R&D centre are both located in Bengaluru.

Outlining the state's strategy, Manjula said Karnataka is pursuing a three-pronged approach — Liquidity, Land and Labour — to accelerate investments in electronics and semiconductors.

The state is developing specialised manufacturing clusters, including aerospace and PCB manufacturing in Mysuru, consumer electronics in Hubballi-Dharwad, and mobile component manufacturing in Chikkaballapur, besides plans for mobile-phone assembly and EV manufacturing clusters near Bengaluru.

Quick commerce white-collar hiring up 21% in Jan

BENGALURU, DHNS: With strong demand for specialised talent, white-collar hiring in the quick commerce sector witnessed 21% year-on-year growth in January.

According to the foundit Insights Tracker report, there is a strong demand for specialised talent in the quick commerce sector. While overall white-collar hiring across industries recorded a 9% year-on-year increase in January, indicating continued employer confidence in strategic and high-skill roles, said the report.

"India's quick-commerce ecosystem is moving from scale-first growth to efficiency and intelligence-led expansion. We are seeing strong demand for professionals across data analytics, product technology, and supply-chain strategy, as companies focus on improving forecasting accuracy, optimising inventory movement, and strengthening customer experience. This signals a clear shift towards sustainable, tech-enabled growth for the sector," foundit VP, Marketing, Anupama Bhimrajka, said.

The foundit Insights Tracker (fit) is a monthly report that analyses online job posting activity conducted by foundit.in.

The report further revealed that quick commerce in India is entering a second phase of maturity, where profitability, predictability, and operational intelligence are taking precedence over pure expansion.

While delivery and dark-store roles continue to dominate overall headcount, white-collar roles are emerging as the strategic core of the sector and currently contribute 14% of total quick-commerce hiring, the report added.

Direct tax kitty up 9.4% to Rs 19.44L cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Net direct tax collection grew 9.4% to about Rs 19.44 lakh crore in the current fiscal till February 10 on slower refunds and higher corporate tax mop-up.

Data released by the Income Tax Department on Wednesday showed that net corporate tax collection grew 14.51% to Rs 8.90 lakh crore, while taxes from non-corporates, including individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), rose 5.91% to about Rs 10.03 lakh crore.

Securities Transaction Tax collection stood at Rs 50,279 crore between April 1 and February 10, almost flat as compared to the same period last year.

Tax refund issuance nosedived 18.82% to Rs 3.34 lakh crore during the period.

Gross direct tax collection increased 4.09% to Rs 22.78 lakh crore till February 10 of this fiscal. This includes gross corporate tax and non-corporate tax mop-up of Rs 10.88 lakh crore and Rs 11.39 lakh crore, respectively.

In the Revised Estimates (RE) for the current fiscal, the government has projected its direct tax collection at Rs 24.84 lakh crore.

Govt of Karnataka
O/o Executive Engineer, PWD, Udupi Division
Udupi - 576101. C.No : (0820) 2531802
No.PWD:UDN:NIT-47:2025-26:AE-2 Dated: 11.02.2026

Short term Tender Notification

It is here by notified for the information of intending registered contractor, of Class –III in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal **"kppp.karnataka.gov.in"** as per Karnataka tranperency in public procurement act - 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in. The Last date for submission of tender on **19.02.2026** through E-procurement portal **"kppp.karnataka.gov.in"** for **Indent No.32413 under 8443 – Deposit** head, work costing **Rs. 64.97 (excluding GST)**. For more information contact office during office hours.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Public works department
Udupi Division, Udupi.

DIPR/ADU/KSMCA/715/25-26 Dt: 11.02.2026

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ENTERPRISE)
Office of the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Canal Investigation, Division, Hebbur, ph-0816-2957008 **Tumkur District-572120**

Karnataka Public Procurement Tender Notification No.07/2025-26 Dated: 09.02.2026

On behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Canal Investigation Division, Hebburu, invites tender on Item rate basis from eligible contractors for 01 Work. Starting date for submission of bids is Dt: **12.02.2026** and Last date for submission of bids is Dt: **26.02.2026** till 4.30 PM. Further details can be obtained from this office and through the internet at the website address www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
CNNL, H.C.I. Division, Hebbur.

DIPR/TUM/436/KSMCA/2025-26

Janaki Kirloskar is Kirloskar Electric Company CEO

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kirloskar Electric Company Limited on Wednesday announced the appointment of Janaki Kirloskar as its Chief Executive Officer, with immediate effect.

Janaki Kirloskar

Janaki (44) brings along extensive experience across manufacturing, operations, business processes, and organisational functions. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering (Honours) from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA (Class of 2003).

Following her graduation, she joined Kirloskar Electric Company Limited in 2004, where she worked until 2016, gaining hands-on exposure across multiple facets of the group's operations and developing a deep understanding of industrial businesses and promoter-led enterprise operations. In 2016, she transitioned into entrepreneurship and founded Kika Tableware, a premium crockery brand, where she built the business end-to-end, encompassing product development, brand positioning, vendor management, and distribution, and led the venture until 2025.

Between 2022 and 2025, she was associated with Ravindu Motors, where she was involved in operational and strategic initiatives, including supporting the merger and acquisition process that culminated in the sale of the business.

Janaki is the daughter of Vijay R Kirloskar, Executive Chairman, and Meena Kirloskar, Vice-Chairperson, and sister of Rukmini Kirloskar, Non-Executive Non-Independent Director.

'India integral to Qualcomm's global engg roadmap'

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Given the complexity of technologies in the semiconductor industry, more talent is needed, and equally important, it needs to be skilled, said Srini Maddali, Senior Vice President, Engineering and HW Lead, Qualcomm India.

The US-based semiconductor company recently announced the tape-out of its 2-nanometre semiconductor design. Maddali said this achievement is a testament to the strength and depth of the company's engineering teams in India.

"Working closely with global program and architecture teams on advanced semiconductor design requires the very best talent, and our India teams consistently deliver at a global standard. We collaborate closely with multiple stakeholders in India and around the world, who are driving ambitious digital transformation journeys. India continues to be an integral part of our global engineering roadmap," he added.

In an interaction with *DH*, he said the scale at which AI technology is accelerating is much bigger than what people assume. "We always look at how AI can help us — right from fundamental day-to-day activity, to the most-complex design development and also identifying them," he said.

The Qualcomm Bengaluru campus serves as a key engineering centre for development across next-generation wireless, AI, compute, and system-level technologies.

A nanometre in semiconductor manufacturing refers to the size of transistors and other components on a chip. Compared to 28 nm or 14 nm, a 7-nm chip contains smaller and densely packed transistors. Also, smaller transistors improve the chip's overall processing speed, apart from requiring less power to operate. Designed for high-performance computing and AI, 2nm is considered to power the AI revolution.

Srini Maddali

Recently, at the Qualcomm event, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw mentioned that the country started with 28 nanometre as it would cover about 75% of the needs, ranging from automotive, telecom, power management, and strategic requirements.

The minister also highlighted that with the talent pipeline now broad, the focus is to partner with universities to develop solutions across sectors. He added that we need to make sure that students and employees get the right skills that are needed to provide solutions to the world. "Industry-Academia should come up with a relevant course curriculum, and employees should be upskilled and reskilled. This will bring new opportunities for our country," he said.

Talking about 2 nm, Maddali said it is a long journey to reach 2 nm from 28 nm. "The challenge is not only manufacturing, but production has to be good. These technologies are very expensive; we need to make sure the yield is very good," he said.

"Qualcomm is always identifying the skills and capabilities, and different centres have different capabilities and skillsets. We built the expertise, capabilities, talent, and we leverage global talent and build local talent," he said.

Qualcomm Technologies engineering teams in India contribute across design implementation, validation, AI optimisation and system integration, among others.

BANGALORE NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer
Vidyaranyapura Division, BNCC, Bangalore-97.

No. BNCC/EE/VDP-D/KPPP/02/2025-26 Date: 11.02.2026

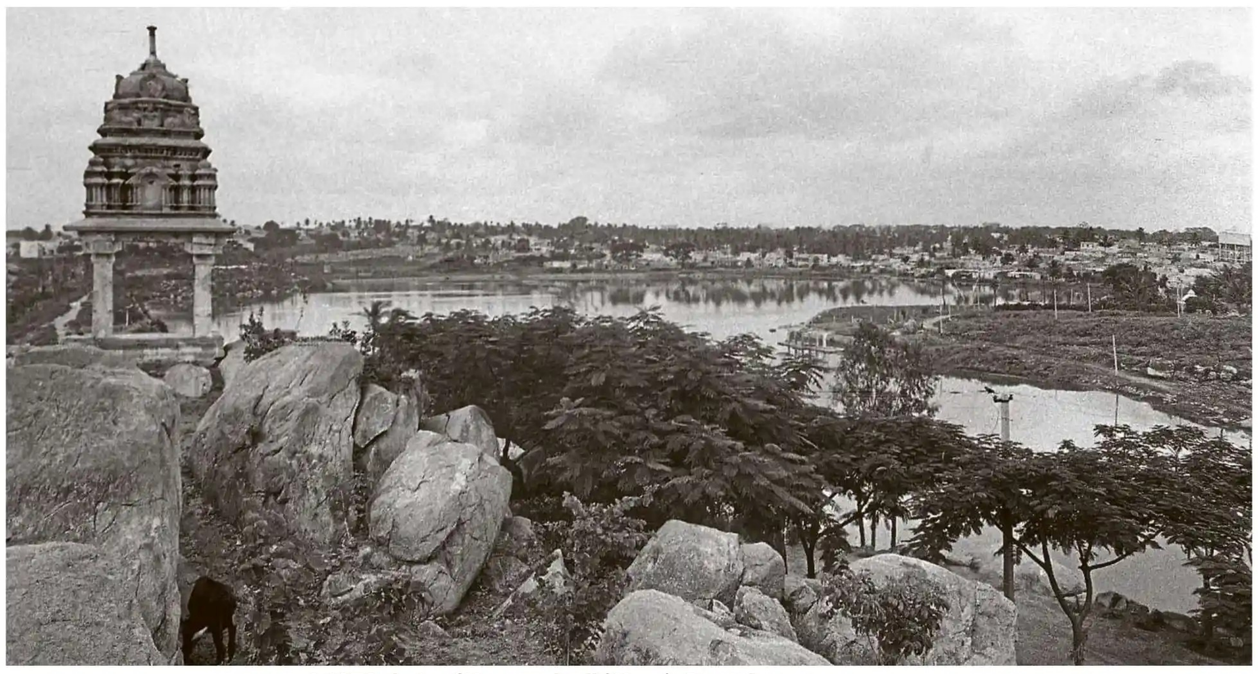
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover Tender
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Commissioner BNCC for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bengaluru North City Corporation, or equivalent registration with CPWD/ KPWD/ Railways/ MES or any State Government Organizations. **(Standard Tender Document RFP)** for the works detailed in the table below

Sl.No	Name of the work
1	Consultancy services for preparation of DPR for the work of Construction of Multipurpose Auditorium at Byatarayanapura Constituency. **EMD (in Rupees): 50,000/-. Cost of Tender form in Rs.(Non-Refundable) inclusive of GST): As per Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.**

Calendar of events: (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from KPPP portal: **13.02.2026 16.30 Hours onwards. (2)** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on: **18.02.2026 15.00 hours. (3)** Last Date & Time for Receipts of tenders: **26.02.2026 16.00 hours. (4)** Opening of Technical proposal: **27.02.2026 16.30 hours. (5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Proposals.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Vidyaranyapura Division, Zone-1,
Bengaluru North City Corporation



A 1976 photo of Kempambudhi Kere in Bengaluru. CREDIT: PV ARCHIVES

A terrain that lives in its names

Udaya Kumar P L explores Bengaluru's geography before urban sprawl, still alive in names of its streets and localities

Digital images highlighting the names of 'Srinivagilu', 'Chikkabettahalli', 'Hesarughatta' and 'Mallapura', found on inscriptions.

Bengaluru is often imagined as a flat, endless sprawl. But look past the flyovers and the signboards, and the city reveals a very different geography. Beneath the concrete, this was a city of rugged mountain passes, intricate water networks, rolling heaps and protected commons — land used by the community but safeguarded by the state.

We often forget that Bengaluru sits 900 metres above sea level, perched on the Deccan Plateau. It isn't a flat tabletop; it is a terrain of ridges and valleys. Cyclists know this instinctively, and the old names of the city confirm it.

To find the high ground, look for the suffixes *Gudda*, *Betta* and *Male*. Each points to a hill or rocky elevation. Names like Chikkabettahalli (a little hill village) and Guddahalli (a hilly village) speak of settlements carved around natural high points. Even Gulakamale hints at a stony terrain.

Some stories, however, are more intricate. Take Malleshwaram for instance. A 1669 CE inscription near the Kadu Malleshwara temple records the village as Mallapura and the deity as Mallapurada Mallikarjuna. Over centuries, the name merged and morphed into Malleshwara.

Then there is the suffix *Ghatta*, a marker of mountain ranges or rugged slopes. Bannerghatta is not just the name of a park; it describes the rocky southern edge of the city. Similar suffixes in Challaghatta and Chunchaghatta remind us that these ancient undulations once guided where our ancestors built their tanks.

Even suffixes like *Kuppe* or *Guppe* carry topographical meaning. Often assumed to mean "hamlet," in Mysorean etymology, it literally means a heap, a pile, a mound, or simply settlements perched on raised earth. So, Attiguppe translates to 'Heap of Fig Trees,' while Thagachaguppe refers to a mound covered in *tagache* (*Cassia tora*), a bright yellow-flowered herb.

And then there is Kathriguppe. Here, *Kuppe* is a mound, but *Kathari* suggests scissors or a dagger (*Katar*). Was the terrain dagger-shaped, or did the name commemorate a warrior? Historians still debate.

The water grid

If the hills defined the city's skeleton, water shaped its lifeblood. Bengaluru's ancient water security rested on *Keres*, *Kuntes* and *Kodis*.

The suffix *Kere* is ubiquitous referring to large irrigation tanks. Still visible in names like Mathikere, Tavarekere (Lotus Lake), Abbigere and Kalkere, they remind us that the city was essentially a wetland.

But where did excess water go when tanks overflowed? That's the role of a *Kodi* or *Godi*, the waste weirs or stone outlets from where water safely escaped the tanks. Names like Adugodi, Hebbagodi, Kadugodi and Jodi Huskur Kodi mark the areas near these crucial safety valves.

Meanwhile, the smaller *Kunte* were ponds tucked into natural depressions and were used to wash cattle or clothes. Konanakunte, which literally means a buffalo pond, Yellukunte and Bagalakunte remind us of these humble water points.

The system wasn't random. Rainwater cascaded from the *Guddas* and *Kuppes* into the *Keres*, overflowed through the *Kodis*, and spilled into the *Kuntes*, sustaining a network of lakes, ponds and wetlands. In other words, Bengaluru was not just a city with tanks — it was a gravity-fed water grid carefully attuned to the plateau's contours.

The green belt

Bengaluru followed clear land-use rules even centuries ago, a fact encoded in localities bearing the suffix *Kaval*. In old revenue records, a *Kaval* was state-protected grazing ground. These were vast stretches reserved for livestock or specific trees where no agriculture or housing was allowed. These areas acted as a buffer between cultivation and habitation. Names like Jarakabande Kaval, Vyalikaval and Shrigandhada Kaval (sandalwood forest) preserve this legacy.

"But where did the cattle go at night? That is where the suffix *Doddi* comes in. A *Doddi* was a cattle pound or enclosure. Names such as Javaregowdana Doddi, Jayapura Doddi and Saludoddi indicate the city's once-pastoral lands. If the *Kaval* was the open grazing ground, the *Doddi* was its secure home.

The sweet rice gate

Among the hills and ponds, there were the gates or *Vagilu*. While some controlled entry to the fort, some have interesting stories behind them. Take for instance the Srinivagilu on the Inner Ring Road. An 8th-century inscription calls it *Sihi Nel Vagilu*, an entrance to the sweet rice field. It suggests that the land that connects Koramangala was once famous for a fragrant variety of rice. The name endured, a whisper of a landscape that has since vanished.

So, the next time you navigate a pothole in Guddahalli or wait for a bus in Attiguppe, look around. The names still reflect the nature of the terrain. They speak of a time when rainwater from the *Males* and *Kuppes* filled the *Keres*, overflowed through the *Kodis* and nourished the grass in the *Kavals*. Concrete may now cover the soil, but the city's memory remains etched in its toponyms.

(The author is Honorary Project Director, The Mythic Society, Bengaluru)

The sluice gate of Kempambudhi Kere. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Shubha V receiving young scientist award in 1989.

Guiding flights, inspiring generations

Nemichandra traces the life and work of the scientist behind India's first indigenous runway visibility system

Every year, women form only a small minority among recipients of national and state honours such as the Padma and Rajyotsava awards. Women from STEM fields are even more conspicuous by their absence. The conferment of the Padma Shri this year on Dr Shubha V, former Distinguished Scientist at the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) and best known for leading the development of Drishti, India's first indigenous runway visibility-measuring system, is therefore a moment worth celebrating — all the more so because she is from Karnataka.

I first met Shubha in 1989 at her home in Bengaluru's Mahalakshmi Layout. She was then a Scientist 'C' at NAL and had just won the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) Young Scientist Award for Physical Sciences, the first woman from Karnataka to receive the award. I had gone to interview her for a magazine.

Born in Bengaluru in 1954, Shubha was the ninth and youngest child in her family. Encouraged by her father, she chose to pursue science and higher education, an uncommon path for women of her generation. She studied at National College securing first rank in BSc (Hons) Physics from Bangalore University in 1972, along with two gold medals. She went on to study for an MSc in Physics at Central College, with a specialisation in Electronics.

Tragedy struck when she was in the first year of her MSc: her father passed away. It was a difficult period for the large family. To save the bus fare of 15 paise, Shubha walked every day from Hanumanthanagar to Central College. In 1974, she completed her MSc, once again securing first rank and a gold medal.

Her academic excellence earned her a CSIR Research Fellowship, and she completed her PhD in Instrumentation and Materials Science in 1981. The following year, she joined NAL as Scientist 'B'. Over the decades, she held several key positions, including Head of Materials Science and Head of Airport Instrumentation, before retiring in 2020 as a Distinguished Scientist.

When I visited her again around the turn of the century, her mother was 90 years old and Shubha cared for her with quiet devotion. She not only balanced demanding professional responsibilities with caregiving at home but also found time to work with the underprivileged through the Friends Service League of NAL.

Drishti, India's first indigenous runway visibility-measuring system. PHOTO COURTESY: CSIR-NAL

By then, Shubha's scientific career was marked by a consistent focus on indigenous research and development (R&D).

A decade later, in 2011, she came into the public eye as the scientist who led the development of 'Drishti'. Severe fog and poor runway visibility often lead to flight delays, diversions and cancellations. Drishti, a transmittometer that measures Runway Visual Range (RVR), significantly aids pilots for safe landing and takeoff during such conditions.

Shubha was also involved in the indigenous development of the Aviation Weather Monitoring System (AWMS), another mandatory airport system that provides real-time data on air pressure, temperature, wind speed and direction, humidity and dew point.

Over the years, she has received numerous honours for her contributions to science, engineering and technology, including the Karnataka Science and Technology Academy Award in 2021 and the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda State Award in 2025. Drishti went on to win several national awards, including the first 'Make in India' National Award in 2015 and the CSIR Platinum Jubilee Technology Innovation Award in 2016.

Today, while women account for nearly 43% of enrolments in STEM courses, they make up only about 27% of the STEM workforce in India, with their presence in leadership positions remaining minuscule. Against this imbalance, Dr Shubha's journey stands as both an inspiration and a challenge — urging women to enter STEM fields, persevere and push against the status quo.

Walking through the Kittur chapter of freedom struggle

Santosh Chinagudi explores Veerabhoomi, a heritage memorial that reconstructs the life of Sangolli Rayanna and his resistance against the colonial rule

Stepping into Veerabhoomi at Nandgad transports visitors back in time. Events from more than two centuries ago unfold through life-size stone sculptures and installations at this memorial dedicated to Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna, the heroic commander-in-chief of the army of the princely state of Kittur under Rani Channamma.

From Rayanna's home and the courtyard where he grew up, to Kittur where he trained for battle, and finally the banyan tree where he was martyred, Veerabhoomi traces the arc of his life and his resistance against British rule.

Nandgad, near Belagavi's Khanapur, is historically significant as the place where Rayanna and six of his companions were executed by the British in 1831. The banyan tree to which they were tied still stands, a silent testimony to the event.

Spread across more than ten acres, the state government has developed the site into a heritage museum and memorial at a cost of Rs 72 crore and named it Veerabhoomi. Inaugurated in January, the museum is envisioned as a major heritage and tourism destination. Soon, the space will also have a research and development centre.

Stone sculptures across the complex depict Rayanna's military strategies, particularly his use of deception and guerrilla warfare. Installations show meetings held in caves, training in weapon-making, supply arrangements and coordinated attacks. These scenes explain how traps were laid to ambush enemy forces and villagers' role in sustaining the resistance.

Several important historical locations have been recreated with attention to details, including the Collector's office in Dharwad where Rayanna was interrogated, the former *amaldar*'s office in Sampagaon, and the house of the Kulkarni (a village record keeper) who punished Rayanna's mother for failing to pay taxes. Models of villages that supported Rayanna's forces provide insight into the social and administrative realities of the period.

The heritage space follows traditional architectural styles while preserving the natural terrain around it. A central space within the museum is the silent hall, where the final moments of Rayanna and his six companions are presented through 3D wall murals. Lighting and relief work recreate the execution scene, accompanied by dramatised audio. Another installation depicts Rayanna and his associates attending Rani Channamma's final rites at Bailhongal, in disguise.

The museum also uses sensor-based narration. As visitors approach a sculpture or installation, audio explanations begin automatically, functioning like a personal guide. 3D visualisations and sound-and-light presentations added to the immersive experience.

Initiated based on the guidance of researcher Ka Ta Chikkanna, Veerabhoomi has been designed by Suryaprakash, an expert in designing open-air heritage spaces.

"The challenge was to ensure that the installations did not deviate from historical facts. Researcher Prof Jyoti Hosur and historian Basavaraj Kamat guided us throughout. From building design to human figures, everything is designed to allow visitors experience history naturally," Suryaprakash says.

"Veerabhoomi evokes patriotic emotions and connects people with history. Preserving the tree where Rayanna and his companions were martyred is commendable," said Shridhar Kademani, a visitor from Bailhongal.

Tracing history

Beyond Rayanna, the museum also commemorates six martyrs who were executed alongside him at Nandgad: Balanayak of Bastawad, Basalingappa of Hanabaratti, Karibasappa of Belavadi, Bhima Jiddimani of Hogarti, Kenchappa Rudrappa Patil of Sangatikoppa and Appoji Nayak of Sutagatti. Several others — including Rudranayak, Yallanayak and Neelanayak of Belavadi; Apponi of Tigadolli; Ranojikonda of Majjigadda; Koneri of Topinkatte; and Nemanna of Kodachawad — were sentenced to 'transportation for life' at the British colonial prison in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, known as Kala Pani.

Researcher Prof C K Navalagi calls for efforts to identify the burial sites of the six executed warriors and to trace their descendants, as well as document the lives of those sent to Kala Pani. He also recommends archaeological excavation at Kittur to further study the period.

(Translated from Kannada by Divyashri Mudakavi)

A replica of the British-era Dharwad Collector's Office at Veerabhoomi in Nandgad; The depiction of Rayanna's capture at Dorihalla. PHOTOS BY EKNATH AGASIMANI

Time for 'warm-up' ahead of CRUNCH CLASH

Champions India take on minnows Namibia

MADHU JAWALI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Ahead of their grudge match against Pakistan in four day's time, India would be fretting over the recovery of their destructive opener Abhishek Sharma than the challenge Namibia would pose when the hosts lock horns with the African team in their second Group A match here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Thursday.

The left-hander was discharged on Wednesday from the hospital after being treated for stomach infection, but, for obvious reasons, didn't take part in India's optional practice session on the eve of the match. While it's unlikely he would take the field on Thursday against Namibia, India would certainly hope he is ready for the Pakistan game, not just for the bruising start he provides, but also the kind of intimidating factor he carries on to the field.

The direct beneficiary of this development will be Sanju Samson, who has ceded his opening slot to Ishan Kishan after a long run of failures in the series against New Zealand, preceding the T20 World Cup.

The match against minnows will also help India test the match fitness of Jasprit Bumrah who caused a minor flutter in the Indian ranks after hurting Kishan with a yorker. Though the in-form wicketkeeper-batter returned to bat again after what appeared to be a precautionary break, it was also an indicator of Bumrah's progress following a break due to illness.

In a game that is, with due respect to Namibia, no more than a warm-up game for India before they fly out to Colombo to meet their arch-rivals with an additional layer of spice added to an already hot contest, India would hope to win the toss and opt to bat first to test their batters most of whom came undone on a tacky Mumbai pitch against the USA.

A fit-again Jasprit Bumrah is expected to take the field for India's group game against Namibia at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Thursday. PTI

Unlike in Mumbai, however, Delhi promises to be a belter of a surface on which Namibia would need a divine intervention to stop the Indian batters at a venue whose short dimensions make bowlers' job even more arduous.

That said, the unfamiliarity factor of Namibia players remains the visitors' USP. Perhaps, that's what pushed them to the brink against the USA, and they would be smarter by the experience.

After a good outing against the USA, Varun Chakravarthy and Axar Patel might prove more than a handful for the inexperienced Namibia who have rarely played under lights except, perhaps, during the ICC events.

They didn't even get a chance to practice under lights on the eve of their match, while Oman, who have an afternoon match here on Friday, practiced alongside India.

Talking of Axar, the left-arm spin all-rounder would, in all likelihood, bat higher up the order after he was sent at No. 8 against the USA.

Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate, on Tuesday, acknowledged the mistake of promoting Rinku Singh at No. 6 after losing the first four wickets.

"We just had a hunch the other night that we wanted to get Rinku a bit of game time as well. We want guys to be adaptable and versatile to be able to bat in different situations, different positions. But I think a lesson maybe from the other night is that we stick with what we have done over the last 12 months. And Axar has been very good at that. His game's well suited to that role. And going forward, you're more likely to see Axar coming in if we find ourselves in trouble," ten Doeschate reasoned.

Teams (from) INDIA: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd Siraj, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakravarthy, Rinku Singh.

NAMIBIA: Gerhard Erasmus (captain), Jan Balt, Zane Green (wk), Malan Kruger, Dylan Leicher, Lauren Steenkamp, Jan Frylinck, Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton, William Myburgh, JJ Smit, Jack Brassel, Max Heingo, Bernard Scholtz, Ben Shikongo, Ruben Trumpelmann.

Tilak excited to play against Pakistan

MADHU JAWALI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The last time India played Pakistan, in the Asia Cup final on September 28, Tilak Varma produced the innings of his life under immense pressure to take India across the line in a grudge match in Dubai. The left-hander is once again excited to face-off against arch-rivals after the uncertainty over their February 15 group match was lifted on Monday night.

"To be honest, we are very excited to play. We got to know that the match was going to take place the day before. We are ready to play. We are watching all the teams. We are watching the bowlers and the batsmen. All the players and team members are ready to play. Now, we are in the match zone. The planning will start," said Tilak, ahead of India's practice session here on Thursday.

On Tuesday, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate had alluded that Pakistan, who have been camping in Colombo for a fortnight now, might have a slight advantage in terms of familiarity with the conditions. When asked about the Pakistan challenge away from home, Tilak said their preparation has covered all bases.

"We are going one match at a time, so we will see. We have video analysis of who we are playing, how the wicket is behaving, the bowlers we have to target and the batters we have to plan. We are well prepared for all the challenges."

Tilak missed the New Zealand T20 series following a testicular surgery and joined the team only on February 3 in Mumbai after a spell of rehab at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. The 23-year-old was happy to be playing his maiden World Cup.

"I am really happy I am back in the World Cup side. I have worked hard for the last few weeks. I have been doing good routines. God has been kind to me and I am back on the field. My aim is to win the World Cup and I am ready to play any role that the team requires of me. I always say I am ready to play for the team. I am looking forward to it," he remarked.

Asked if the break was a blessing in disguise before a big assignment, the Hyderabadi said he can't imagine himself without a bat in his hand.

"First of all, when I don't have a bat in my hands for a couple of days, I feel strange. I feel as if I have come to a different world. I keep visualising that I am playing in the World Cup final. I put myself under pressure. It has become a habit since childhood. I have been holding the bat for so many years. My mind is always in that zone."

Tilak Varma

Sahibzada Farhan

Farhan plays down hype surrounding India clash

COLOMBO, PTI: Pakistan batter Sahibzada Farhan has played down the hype surrounding Sunday's T20 World Cup clash against bitter foes India, calling it a "normal match" although the mindset of his team will be "different" from previous games.

Pakistan sit atop Group A with back-to-back wins over the Netherlands and the USA.

During the post-match media briefing, the opener fielded queries on the game against India that is finally on after his government withdrew its boycott call.

"See, when you win two matches and are at the top of the table, you feel confident. The upcoming match is not such a big deal, we're not playing against them for the first time," he responded when asked about the team's mindset.

"We've played before and this time we'll play with a different mindset. You've seen us...You must have seen that Shadab (Khan) is making runs, (Mohammad) Nawaz is scoring runs. So hopefully you will enjoy our game against them," he said.

"It's a normal match. We'll play like a normal match. We won't put it in our head that this is an India-Pakistan match, it is a normal match and we will play it like a normal match," he added.

SL look to iron out middle-over inconsistencies

PALLEKELE, PTI: Sri Lanka will have to iron out their batting inconsistencies, particularly in the middle overs, and rework their bowling combination in the absence of an injured Wanindu Hasaranga when they take on Oman in a Group B match of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

LIVE 11 AM

The former champions were dealt a severe blow after Hasaranga, their most potent spin weapon, was ruled out of the tournament with a hamstring injury sustained during their opener against Ireland.

Sri Lanka had a disappointing build-up to the ICC showpiece, entering the tournament on the back of a 0-3 drubbing by England at home. However, the co-hosts made a positive start to their campaign with a 20-run win over a tricky Ireland.

The victory, though, could not mask their batters' struggle against spin.

The 2014 champions failed to hit a single boundary between the seventh and 15th overs after Ireland introduced spin, an area Oman will look to exploit.

Namibia rue not getting to practice under lights

MADHU JAWALI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Namibia are set for a rare night match -- against hosts India -- on Thursday here, but were forced to practice in daylight between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm. Their opening match on Tuesday against the Netherlands had a 11.00 am start.

What was even more unjustifiable was Oman, practicing alongside India from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm, when their match is scheduled for a 3.00 pm start on Friday. Namibia skipper Gerhard Erasmus made his displeasure clear when he addressed the media after his team's practice here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday.

"Yeah, we haven't got any lights in Namibia, light games, day/night games or night games in Namibia," pointed out Gerhard.

"Infrastructure wise it's probably the challenge for us, so yeah it's not a casual thing for guys that don't have. I think for other guys who played in the Nepal Premier League and other tournaments like that and the World Cups that we've played, you don't really get accustomed to lights and train under it very often.

Gerhard Erasmus

"Yeah, we haven't been given a night training before this game, I don't know why, I think India has two night trainings and I could see outside that Canada are going to have a night training now, so make of that what you want, but we'll just rock up and do our Namibian way, which is to fight," he offered.

After the Netherlands' match, Namibia coach Craig Williams hoped to have a night session on Wednesday, but that didn't materialise.

"I'm just going to be honest with you, for us to play under lights is always going to be difficult because we don't play that much under lights. I mean we played against India and that was also quite tough for us, so we always prepare as best we can, get the guys in a good mental space ...So preparing for India under lights will obviously tick our boxes and try to put the guys in the best position that they can to be able to have a successful game."

South Africa survive Afghanistan thriller

AHMEDABAD, PTI

In a T20 World Cup game for the ages, South Africa somehow managed to get past a plucky Afghanistan after two wildly oscillating Super Overs here on Wednesday.

Ryan Rickelton (61 off 28) and Quinton de Kock (59 off 41) put together a brilliant century stand with quickfire fifties to power South Africa to 187 for six.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz (84 off 42) then singlehandedly kept Afghanistan in the run chase before some lusty hitting from the lower-order helped them tie the game in regulation time.

What followed was an incredible sequence of two Super Overs with fortunes swinging either way after every ball.

In the first Super Over, Azmatullah Omarzai struck Lungi Ngidi for two fours and a six to help Afghanistan post 17 runs, but Tristan Stubbs hit two sixes off Fazalhaq Farooqi, including off the last ball to force another Super Over.

Coming in to bat in the second Super Over, David Miller and Tristan Stubbs struck three sixes to notch up 23 runs, a steep target which was made to look very gettable by Rahmanullah Gurbaz. The opening batter smashed seasoned left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj for three consecutive sixes before getting out to complete a sensational finish.

South Africa's David Miller scored 16 not out off 4 balls in the second Super Over to help his side edge Afghanistan in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. AFP

In regulation time, the Afghans started aggressively in the run chase before losing the plot but some brilliant hitting from Omarzai, Rashid and Noor Ahmad coupled with a disastrous final over from Kagiso Rabada, in which he gave away two no-balls, cost South Africa dearly.

Afghanistan made a bright start to their chase, with Gurbaz (84, 42b; 4x4, 7x6) smashing Ngidi for two fours in the opening over. Gurbaz continued with his attacking approach, ramping Marco Jansen over the slips for aa maximum and then hitting Rabada over the third man fence. George Linde gave away 17 runs in his opening over as Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran took the attack to the opposition to race to 50 in just four overs. But Ngidi put brakes on the scoring, scalping two wickets in the fifth over in the form of Zadran.

Brief scores: South Africa: 187/6 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 59, Ryan Rickelton 61; Azmatullah Omarzai 3-41, Rashid Khan 2-28) bt Afghanistan: 187 all out in 19.4 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 84; Lungi Ngidi 3-26) via two Super Overs.

Super Over 1: Afghanistan: 17/0 drew with South Africa: 17/1.

Super Over 2: South Africa: 23/0 bt Afghanistan: 19/2.

PoM: Lungi Ngidi

Australia's Ellis, Zampa tear Ireland apart

COLOMBO, PTI: Pacer Nathan Ellis set the tone with a three-wicket burst in his opening spell as an under-strength Australia demolished Ireland by 67 runs in their opening group B fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

If Ellis (4/12 in 3.5 overs) blew away the top-order, leg-spinner Adam Zampa (4/23 in 4 overs) polished off the middle and lower-order with Ireland innings ending at 115/9 in 16.5 overs in pursuit of a challenging score of 183.

With Mitchell Marsh all but out of T20 World Cup with a groin injury and none among Mitchell Starc (retired), Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood (injuries) in the current squad, Ellis manfully shouldered the responsibility as the lead pacer.

While Ross Adair got one that was fast and low and rocketed into the stumps, Ben Calitz found pace and bounce generated by Ellis too hot to handle drawing one onto the stumps.

Brief scores: Australia: 182/6 in 20 overs (Josh Inglis 37, Matt Renshaw 37, Marcus Stoinis 45; Mark Adair 2-44) bt Ireland: 115/9 in 16.5 overs (George Dockrell 41; Nathan Ellis 4-12, Adam Zampa 4-23). **Result:** Australia won by 67 runs. **PoM:** Nathan Ellis.

Rutherford lights up Windies' night

MUMBAI, PTI

Sherfane Rutherford (76 not out) and Gudakesh Motie (3/32) thwarted England's charge twice to help West Indies win their key Group C match of the T20 World Cup by 30 runs here on Wednesday.

Rutherford displayed the Caribbean flair with his stroke-play to make a 42-ball 76 not out with five sixes and two fours, enthralling a 21,300-strong Wankhede Stadium crowd, while the West Indies spinners led by Motie utilised the grip off the surface perfectly to deny England in the chase.

Set a target of 197, England, who had none of their batters converting starts, rolled over for 166 in 19 overs, with Sam Curran topping the scorecard with 43 not out.

Phil Salt (30 off 14 balls; 4 fours, 2 sixes) and England were off the blocks quickly when the right-handed tore into Jason Holder, collecting 24 runs off the second over to put the side on top. Anything short was hammered into the stands while Salt mostly met the ball with the middle of the bat.

Holder's medium pace, like Curran's earlier in the first half, failed to make any impression on the batters and it was against the run of play when England lost their first wicket.

Going for one shot too many, Salt was cramped for room when he danced down, playing it straight to Rutherford at cover off Romario Shepherd.

Even as the powerplay belonged to England who had raced to 67/1, there was another soft dismissal in the form of Jos Buttler (21).

Roston Chase was forced to come around the wicket after being hit for a six, but Buttler smacked this one straight to Powell at long-on.

Brief scores: West Indies: 196/6 in 20 overs (Roston Chase 34, Sherfane Rutherford 76 n.o., Jason Holder 33; Jamie Overton 2-33, Adil Rashid 2-16) bt England: 166 all out in 19 overs (Phil Salt 30, Jacob Bethell 33, Sam Curran 43 n.o.; Roston Chase 2-29, Gudakesh Motie 3-33). **Result:** West Indies win by 30 runs. **PoM:** Sherfane Rutherford.

Sherfane Rutherford

Dangerous Nepal face debutants Italy

MUMBAI, PTI: Fighting hard but not quite there, Nepal will look to go the distance and end a winless run in the T20 World Cup when they face tournament debutants Italy in a Group C match, here on Thursday.

Having made their debut in the competition 12 years ago, Nepal recorded a couple of wins in the 2014 edition when they defeated Hong Kong and Afghanistan but the Himalayan nation has gone winless since.

LIVE 3 PM

Interestingly, Nepal have come agonisingly close on three occasions to beat Test-playing nations but ended up on the wrong side of the result.

In 2024, they lost to South Africa by just one run and against Bangladesh by 21 runs.

But the four-run defeat in a heroic chase against England last Sunday here at the Wankhede Stadium has firmly placed them in the spotlight and created a buzz around Nepalese cricketers.

They have shown tremendous grit having honed their skills in one of the toughest formats with minimal exposure to international cricket.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

T20 World Cup: Sri Lanka vs Oman **(11 am)**, Nepal vs Italy **(3 pm)**, India vs Namibia **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Brentford vs Arsenal **(1:30 am, Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

HOCKEY

FIH Pro League: India vs Argentina **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel, JioHotstar.**

SHOOTING

Asian Rifle/Pistol C'Ships: Day 9 **(11:15 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

Dallas Open: Round of 32 **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

ABN Amro Open: Round of 32 **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

OTHERS

Winter Olympics: Day 6 **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

Krishna, Pavandeep's efforts give K'taka an edge

BENGALURU, DHNS: Led by bowler Krishna Kumar's three-wicket haul and Pavandeep R Bharadakane's unbeaten half-century, Karnataka took control of the proceedings against Andhra Pradesh at the end of the opening day in their Under-14 Boys' South Zone cricket tournament held at the ACA Academy ground in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday.

While Krishna finished with the figures 3/32, Hannan Zaki Ahmed (2/26) and Samrat Aditya P (2/36) picked up two wickets each to bowl out the hosts for 230 runs in 66.1 overs. PVSR Varma was Andhra's highest scorer with an 85-ball 62.

Later, Pavandeep anchored Karnataka's reply with the bat by hammering 13 boundaries in his 74-ball 76 not out while Samarth Suresh scored a handy 40 before losing his wicket. The visitors will resume day two with the scoreboard reading 130 for one in 21 overs.

Brief scores: Andhra Pradesh: 230 all out in 66.1 overs (Raj 46, PVSR Varma 62, B Sai Krishna Chaithanya 32, Thonda Kinnu Kishal 31; Samrat Aditya P 2-36, Hannan Zaki Ahmed 2-26, Krishna Kumar 3-32) vs Karnataka: 130/1 in 21 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 76 n.o., Samarth Suresh 40).

Tannu shines in LPU's hard-fought win

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a closely-contested match, Tannu's 25-point contribution, ably aided by Shalu's 14-point effort, helped Lovely Professional University secure a hard-fought 63-58 victory over Christ University in the league stage of the All India Inter-University Basketball championship for women held at the Jain University Global Campus on Kanakapura Road here on Wednesday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Results (league matches): Women: Lovely Professional University: 63 (Tannu 25, Shalu 14) bt Christ University: 58 (Gunjanmantri 25, Shomirabidaye 10); Chandigarh University: 70 (Kusbhu 25, Deepshika 19) bt DAV Indore: 59 (Khusi Guta 19, Priyanshi 20). HT: 35-27; Jain University: 65 (Harshita 13, Aadya Gowda 10) bt University of Calcutta: 25 (Susmita Kapat 10, Nuskai Khantoon 4). HT: 41-6; SRM University, Chennai: 58 (Sunaresalin 16, Madhumitha 10) bt MBSPSU Patiala: 15. HT: 23-9; ITM University: 65 (Riya Sharma 15, Saniya Pradman 15) bt SGGVA University: 30; LNIPE University: 68 (Sonal Mahala 12, Dimple Yadav 12) bt PT Ravi Shankar University: 28 (Lakshmi Reethushi 9, Hiral Patel 6). HT 36-20.

HOCKEY FIH PRO LEAGUE

Solid Belgium sink India

Onana, Crols and Van Dessel strike in convincing 3-1 victory

ROURKELA, PTI

India let in two goals in the final quarter to suffer a 1-3 defeat to Belgium in their Rourkela leg of the FIH Men's Pro League 2025–26 match here on Wednesday.

Nelson Onana (23rd minute), Thomas Crols (53rd) and Arno Van Dessel (57th) scored for Belgium while Shilanand Lakra (29th) was the goal-scorer for India.

The two sides were locked 1-1 at the half time as well as at the end of the third quarter, before Belgium pumped in two goals in the final 15 minutes.

It was an extremely competitive first quarter with both sides hardly making any mistakes at the back.

Belgium earned an early penalty corner in the 4th minute. However, Alexander Hendrickx's drag-flick was stopped heroically by India's first rusher Vivek Sagar Prasad.

Four minutes later, India too got their first penalty corner but the home side couldn't capitalise on the occasion.

While Belgium were having more possession, India did well to hold their ground and launch quick counter-attacks in search of goal-scoring opportunities.

In the 14th minute, Belgium won another penalty corner but this time Tom Boon's powerful attempt went narrowly wide off the target as the scores remained level.

Belgium found the back of the net twice in the final quarter of the match to beat hosts India 3-1 in the first leg of the FIH Men's Pro League in Rourkela on Wednesday. HI MEDIA

The game opened up in the second quarter. Belgium were awarded a penalty corner in the 21st minute but Indian goalkeeper Pawan made a brilliant acrobatic save to deny Alexander Hendrickx a goal.

Moments later, Belgium's Thomas Crols was through on goal but Pawan stepped out and made another crucial save to protect his goal.

In the 23rd minute, Belgium found the opening goal as they did well to make an interception to win possession in a dangerous position. Thomas Crols passed the ball to Onana who found the net with a simple finish. India stepped up their attack and made some crucial circle entries in the following minutes. In the 29th minute, the hosts made another attack and won a penalty corner. Amit Rohidas's hit was initially stopped by the first rusher, but Shilanand Lakra did well to quickly pounce on the ball and slot it into the net to score the equaliser.

Belgium continued to dictate possession in the third quarter. However, India were resilient with their defending and maintained their composure at the back. In the 38th minute, Belgium won another penalty corner but Alexander Hendrickx was denied yet again, this time by Jarmnapreet Singh, who showed great skill to make a save on the goalline to keep the scores level.

In the 53rd minute, India broke into another strong counter-attack as Nilakanta Sharma played a brilliant pass to Karthi Selvam but the forward couldn't take a shot on goal in time and was stopped by the Belgian backline.

Seconds later on the other end of the field, Belgium launched an attack from the left flank as Lucas Balthazar played the perfect pass into the circle from the baseline to Thomas Crols, who struck the ball into the bottom right corner to take the lead for the visitors.

In the 57th minute, it was Thomas Crols again in the spotlight as he set up the ball for Arno Van Dessel who did well to sneak the ball into the net and seal the victory for Belgium.

Result: India: 1 (Lakra Shilanand 29th) lt to Belgium: 3 (Onana Nelson 23rd, Crols Thomas 53rd, Arno Van Dessel 57th).

Shooter Anish picks up a bronze

NEW DELHI, PTI

World Championship silver medallist Anish Bhanwala clinched bronze in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol competition, even as Kazakhstan dominated day eight of the Asian Shooting Championship with four gold medals here on Wednesday.

This was Anish's third Asian Championship medal.

Adriyan Karmakar in the 50m rifle prone junior men's event and the junior men's 25m RFP team also won gold on the day, taking India's table-topping medal tally to 41 gold, 19 silver and 15 bronze, with two more days of competitions left.

Anish and Adarsh Singh took the seventh and eighth qualifying spots with scores of 574 and 573 respectively, ensuring two Indians in the RFP final. Former champion Nikita Chiryukin of Kazakhstan topped the qualifiers with a 582 and led a trio of his mates into the decider.

Japanese Dai Yoshioka, a two-time Olympian and a world cup gold medallist and Ha Minh Thanh, a double Asian Games medallist also went through along with Ha's teammate Vu Tien Nam.

In the final consisting of eight series of five rapid-fire shots, Yoshioka, Anish and Chiryukin were fastest off the blocks as Vu and Kazakh Artemiy Kabakov became the first two to be eliminated after the third series.

As long-time team-mate Adarsh bowed out after the fourth series with 11 hits to his name, Anish found himself in joint lead with Yoshioka and Nikita after the sixth series with 21 hits.

However, he got two hits in the seventh as the Japanese struck five and Chiryukin four, settling for bronze, the same result he had achieved three years ago at the Changwon Asian Championships.

Yoshioka went on to close with another perfect five to upgrade his Changwon performance by one, finishing on a world and Asian record score of 31. Chiryukin won silver with 28 hits, while Anish ended on 23 hits.

India's Anish Bhanwala (right), Japan's Yoshioka Dai (centre) and Kazakhstan's Nikita Chiryukin pose with their men's 25m rapid-fire pistol medals in the Asian Rifle/Shooting Championship on Wednesday. NRAI

Hammers hold Man United

LONDON, AFP

Benjamin Sesko salvaged a 1-1 draw for Manchester United at West Ham as Michael Carrick's perfect start came to an end on Tuesday, while Tottenham's 2-1 defeat to Newcastle cost manager Thomas Frank his job.

The Hammers kept one United fan who has vowed not to cut his hair until the Red Devils win five consecutive games waiting as they boosted their chances of survival despite the setback of Sesko's stoppage time strike.

The manner of United's impressive four consecutive wins since Carrick took charge had seen calls for the former midfielder, who has been appointed until the end of the season, to be handed the job on a more permanent basis.

Benjamin Sesko

Results: Chelsea: 2 (Pedro 24th, Palmer 58th) drew with Leeds: 2 (Nmecha 67th, Okafor 73rd); Everton: 1 (Ndiaye 42nd) lt to Bournemouth: 2 (Rayan 61st, Adli 64th); Tottenham: 1 (Gray 64th) lt to Newcastle: 2 (Thiaw 45+5, Ramsey 68th); West Ham: 1 (Soucek 50th) drew with Manchester United: 1 (Sesko 90+6).

Spurs sack coach Frank

Tottenham Hotspur have sacked head coach Thomas Frank after less than eight months in charge following a 2-1 defeat at home to Newcastle which left them five points above the Premier League relegation zone, reports AFP from London.

"The club has taken the decision to make a change in the men's head coach position and Thomas Frank will leave today," said a Spurs' statement issued on Wednesday.

Burhan stars for SAI Dharwad

BENGALURU, DHNS: Burhan scored 23 points while Varun added another 20 as SAI Dharwad thrashed YCBC, Bellary 85-35 in the Karnataka Rural Basketball Championships for men at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium Courts here on Wednesday.

Results: SAI Dharwad: 85 (Burhan 23, Varun 20) bt YCBC Bellary: 35 (Rooman 19, Sadiq 9). HT: 44-11; Mangalore BC, Mangalore: 78 (Prastik 25, Arjun 14) bt Pinakini Gauribidanur: 39 (Vinay 12, Vidyasagar 8). HT: 39-20; Protec Association Mysuru: 67 (Ranjith 19, Ranen 15) bt Bhagwan BC, Kalaburagi: 43 (Sandesh 18, Rakeshkumar 12). HT: 32-19; National SC, Mysuru: 43 (Ronak 24, Suman 17) bt Chinnadanadu BC, Kolar: 29 (Hemanth 24, Tarun 18). HT: 43-29; Marians BC, Chikkamagaluru: 63 (Rishab 15, Sujoy 14) bt SAI Dharwad: 27 (Varun 14). HT: 33-8; Marians BC, Chikkamagaluru: 58 (Darshan 15, Om Shetty 12) bt Protec Association, Mysuru: 33 (Rohith 10, Ravindra 6). HT: 31-27.

Allmen makes history with third Winter Olympics gold

BORMIO (ITALY), AFP: Franjo von Allmen **(in pic)** became only the third male skier in history to win three gold medals at a single Winter Games when he claimed victory in Wednesday's super-G in Bormio.

Von Allmen booked himself a place in the pantheon of Olympic alpine skiing greats, with Austrian Toni Sailer and France's Jean-Claude Killy the only other racers to have won a hat-trick of golds.

Sailer won the downhill, giant slalom and slalom races at the 1956 Cortina Olympics, a feat mirrored by Killy at the 1968 Grenoble Games. Only Croatia's Janica Kostelic has achieved the feat in women's skiing, at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

Switzerland's Von Allmen, who won the downhill on Saturday, partnered Tanguy Nef to victory in Monday's team combined.

Wearing bib number seven for the super-G, the 24-year-old hit speeds of 120km/h (75mph) to dominate the race down the Stelvio course, clocking a winning time of 1:25.32.

American Ryan Cochran-Siegle finished second, 0.13 seconds off Von Allmen's pace.

Cherubine tipped to win BTC Trophy

MUMBAI SELECTIONS

Pesi Shroff-trained Cherubine and to be ridden by Neeraj Rawal, is fancied to win the Bangalore Turf Club Trophy, the feature event of the races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs on Thursday. The first race starts at 2:30 pm.

1. Raza Ali Plate - 1400M: Alexandria 1, Lara 2, Meadow Springs 3.
2. MD Mehta Trophy - 1000M: Latios 1, Dreams Come True 2, Inheritance 3.
3. PD Bolton Trophy - 1400M: Fourth Wing 1, Thundering Phoenix 2, Earth 3.
4. MMT Pandole Plate - 1200M: Skandha 1, Mriga 2, Flahsman 3.
5. W Buckley Plate - 2000M: Viking 1, Bright Button 2, Whisper 3.
6. Bangalore Turf Club Trophy - 1400M: Cherubine 1, Enrich 2, Red Rose 3.
7. Byram N Jeejeebhoy Trophy - 1000M: Foxy 1, Enforcer 2, Storm Cloud 3.

Day's best: Skandha.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.
Treble: 4, 5, 6.

Deepak five-for in YMCA CC's (3) comfortable victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deepak NJ picked up a five-wicket haul as YMCA Cricket Club (3) thrashed Yuvaka Sangha Cricket Club by six wickets in the KSCA Group I, Division V League cum Knockout tournament for the JB Mallaradhya Shield here.

Batting first, Yuvaka Sangha CC, riding on Ashrith S Reddy's (56) batting effort, could only manage 121 all out in 35.3 overs. Deepak (5/23) was the pick of the bowlers and was ably supported by Mohit L (2/21) and Ram Patil (2/42).

Chasing a modest 122-run target for victory, YMCA Cricket Club (3) romped home in just 22.2 overs, thanks to contributions from Shivaraj (49) and Mohammad Azharuddin (35).

Brief scores: Yuvaka Sangha Cricket Club: 121 all out in 35.3 overs (Ashrith S Reddy 56 n.o.; Deepak NJ 5-23, Mohith L 2-21, Ram Patil 2-42) lt to YMCA Cricket Club (3) : 122/4 in 22.2 overs (Mohammad Azharuddin 35, Shivaraj R 49; Srinath Seshadri 2-19).
Karnataka Youth Cricket Association, Malur: 104 all out in 35.3 overs (Sagar MJ 41; Piyush V Gandhi 2-5, KC Cariappa 5-26, Advaith V Gowda 2-23) lt to Caravan Cricketers: 105/4 in 16.4 overs (Navneeth V Raj 52; Pradeep 2-20).
Johnson CC: 159 all out in 46.4 overs (Praveen Balraj J 37, Kishore V 29, BR Saurav Varma 29 n.o.; Praveen S 2-24, Anthony Premraj 3-36, Arun Kumar C 4-21) bt Garifield Cricketers: 140 all out in 30.5 overs (Nikhil 40, Anthony Premraj 22, Srinivas Prasadn 3-35, Kishore V 3-18).
Dooravani Cricketers (2): 163 all out in 43.1 overs (Mohammed Ruman Choudhury 26, Balajee Deepak 28, Harsha B 37; MS Bhandage 3-46, Chandru Palandira Aiyanna 3-34, Rahul Shetty 3-24) lt to Mathikere CC: 166/8 in 40.1 overs (Rohan R Shah 30, MS Bhandage 44; Shri Bhagawan Singh 3-34, Mahesh Patel BM 2-22).

Technico FF edge past SGFC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sunil Bhatt and Aaron Telespher Rodriguez scored a goal each as Technico FF edged Sree Gajanana FC 2-1 in the BDFA A Division League football championship here on Wednesday.

Results: A Division: Technico FF: 2 (Sunil Bhatt 8th, Aaron Telespher Rodriguez 20th) bt Sree Gajanana FC: 1 (B Niroshan Mani 90th+1); Roots FS: 1 (Karthi S 70th) bt FC Deccan: 0.
B Division: Juno FC: 4 (Harsh 33rd, Muhamnad Savad PN 37th, Laishram Dingku Singh 80th+4, N Vyom Reddy 69th own goal) bt YBEFC; Empire FC: 4 (MangkhoLet Haokip 39th, Muhammad Ijas M 48th, Sachin Kumar S 58th, Thamos Liansuanmung Zou 60th pen).

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